Economists 'surprised' by 4.5% GDP growth

Story Below, Col. 1

RP applies for OIC observer status

By Norman Bordadora

THE ONLY non-Islamic foreign minister invited to attend the exclusive and influential Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, has applied for the Philippines' inclusion as a permanent observer.

This was the first invitation issued by

RP/ A7

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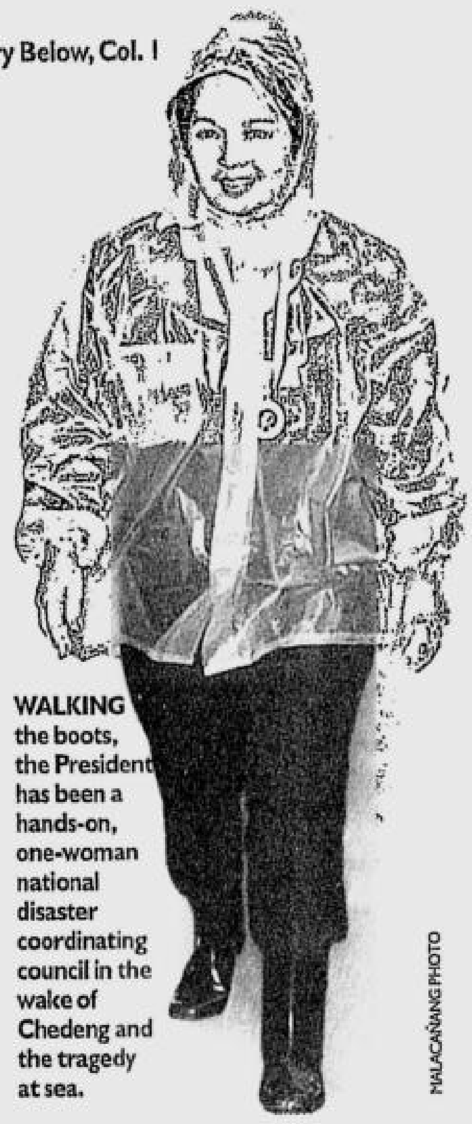
Friday, May 30, 2003 ★★ 88 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 171 P15



WALKING the boots, the President has been a hands-on, one-woman national disaster coordinating council in the wake of Chedeng and the tragedy at sea.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

After truce offer, MILF attacks Army

GMA sets 3 tests of sincerity

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A day after raising hopes for peace in Mindanao with its declaration of a unilateral 10-day ceasefire starting next week, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday killed at least five civilians in an attack on two Army detachments in North Cotabato, the military said.

Hours after the attack, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on the MILF leadership to show sincerity in its avowed quest for peace by renouncing terrorism and its ties to terrorist groups, disclosing rebel positions and surrendering those responsible for the recent spate of bombings in Mindanao.

"We want peace with justice," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. "Any truce offer is only as good as the principle and sincerity behind it."

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said about 70 MILF guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at two detachments of the 40th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Makabenban, Carmen.

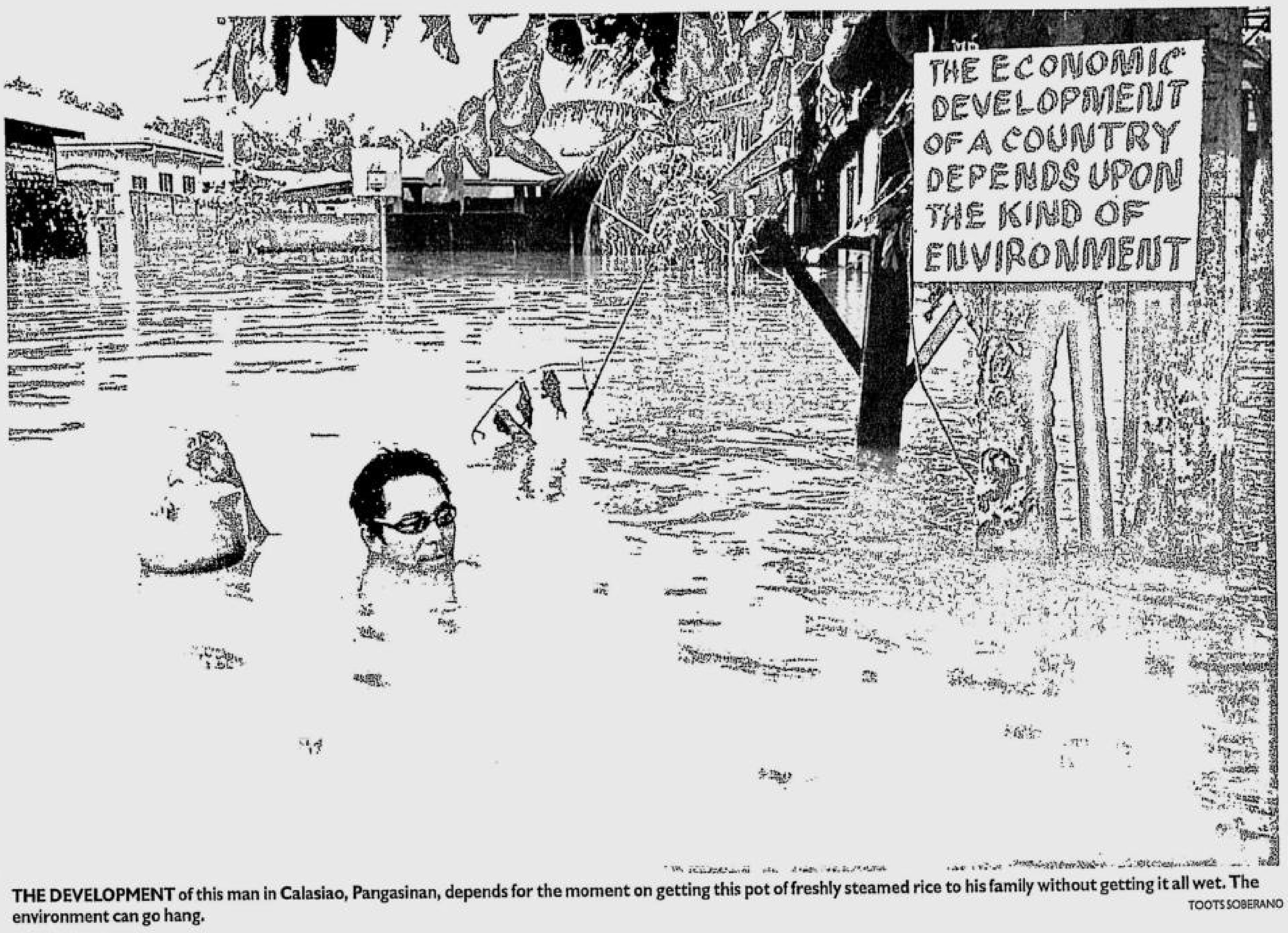
After the mortar barrage at about 3 a.m., MILF rebels swooped down on the village, set fire to 15 houses and killed five civilians, according to Senga.

He said Army soldiers equipped with night-vision goggles clashed with the MILF group, adding the bodies of five rebels were later recovered from the scene. No soldier was killed, Senga said.

"It appears that the MILF leadership has no control over (its) men in the field," Senga said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu acknowledged MILF rebels launched the attack, but he said the MILF field commanders had not yet been informed about the ceasefire. The MILF on Wednesday declared a unilateral suspension of hostilities for 10 days starting

AFTER/ A18



THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY DEPENDS UPON THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENT

THE DEVELOPMENT of this man in Calasiao, Pangasinan, depends for the moment on getting this pot of freshly steamed rice to his family without getting it all wet. The environment can go hang.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Dog saves family from avalanche

FROM THE WELTER of stories churned up by tropical storm "Chedeng" comes this one about a dog warning of a landslide in Baguio City, where the trade in dog meat continues despite the Animal Welfare Act.

On Tuesday Wilmar Castillo, 16, was blissfully singing along to a karaoke machine inside the family home in Barangay Dominican Hill when the barking of their dog, Dagul, interrupted his exertions.

Thinking someone was at the door, Wilmar went outside—and saw an avalanche of mud and gravel rushing down to the house.

The landslide toppled the house and damaged two others nearby.

The Castillos were able to get away, but were grieved by the thought that their 2-year-old hero was buried in the muck.

On Wednesday, Wilmar and his elder brother Jhylannie returned to their house to get cooking utensils and provisions they might need while encamped at the Dominican Elementary School.

Jhylannie dug up their door and when he opened it, Dagul emerged and jumped into his arms.

The incessant rains over Baguio have also exposed a World War II vintage bomb on Sumulong Street.

DOG/ A18

Four bodies found near collision site

By Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño

AN ID found in one of the pockets of his pants enabled relatives to identify the 31st fatality of the collision in Manila Bay between two passenger ferries as David Belches.

The body of Belches was found floating off Cavite City at around 10:45 a.m. yesterday. Belches, married and a resident of Barangay Uno, Coron, Palawan, was on the passenger manifest of the MV San Nicolas, which sank after colliding with Super Ferry 12 on Sunday.

Belches was buried in the Cavite City

FOUR/ A18

4.5-percent GDP growth 'a pleasant surprise'

By Michelle V. Remo

DESPITE higher oil prices caused by the run-up to the US invasion of Iraq, the conflict in Mindanao and a dry spell, the Philippine economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.5 percent in the first quarter of the year, hitting the high end of the government's forecast.

The expansion of the GDP, the total amount of goods produced and services rendered in a country for a given period, was a sharp improvement from the 3.8-percent growth posted in the same period last year.

The high GDP growth caught some economists by surprise. "It's a pleasant surprise," Ernesto Pernia, Asian Development Bank economist, said. "It is good news and at the same time unexpected because everybody was thinking the country was in a slow growth mode."

The first-quarter GDP growth was higher than the ADB's full-year GDP growth forecast of 4 percent, according to Pernia.

4.5-PERCENT/ A20

JESS YUSON

APPETIZING SIGHT
Mirror, mirror, who's the fairest of them all on the Senate floor? Sen. Loren Legarda freshens up her make-up during a Senate break while her seatmate, Sen. Juan Flavier, drools.

Politics dirtier than showbiz, says Sharon

By Leah Salterio

"POLITICALLY motivated," was how megastar Sharon Cuneta yesterday described the rumor hounding her seven-year marriage to Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

The rumor goes: The 37-year-old actress left their conjugal home in Wack-Wack in Mandaluyong last Monday and moved into the residence of her aunt, Helen Gamboa-Sotto, who is married to Sen. Tito Sotto, Cuneta's godfather.

Sotto himself confirmed to Senate re-

POLITICS/ A18

OK ITONG MUNDO KO DITO—ANG DAMING ACTION!! AYOKO NANG MAG-ISKUL!
POW POW
BOOM

Brains reloaded by video games

PARIS—Video games, say detractors, are prone to turn young adults into socially dysfunctional geeks or angry misfits.

But a pair of brain scientists have leaped to the defense of Lara Croft, Spider-Man, the Matrix and Zombie Revenge, saying they have

BRAINS/ A6

GMA richer not surprising, says Bunye

By Carlito Pablo

NOT surprising at all.

This was what Malacañang yesterday said about the P5.2-million increase in President Macapagal-Arroyo's net worth in 2002, after only one year as Chief Executive.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the interest alone, say at an annual rate of 10 percent, on the President's P54.3 million declared cash on hand and in banks for the year 2001 should more than cover the P5.2-million

GMA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Visayas and the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon will experience monsoon rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms..

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/30/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Solons find another anomaly

Naia Terminal 3 access road charged to taxpayers

By Michael Lim Ubac

THERE seems to be no end to the troubles besetting the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

Yesterday, the Senate public services committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo declared the new passenger terminal, already beset with delays and scandals, was a "world-class terminal with a Third World access road."

The committee reportedly unearthed yet another irregularity in the project, this time involving the construction of the surface access road that would connect the existing Terminal 2 to the state-of-the-art Terminal 3.

But this time, the culprits were transportation and public works officials, not the controversial builder of Terminal 3, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), whose contracts were recently voided by the Supreme Court.

During a hearing yesterday, Public Works Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan and Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez admitted that the 2.7-kilometer access road was projected to cost a whopping P155 million ($2.5 million) and that taxpayers' money would be used to pay for its construction.

Arroyo and committee member Sen. Sergio Osmeña III were enraged when they learned that the road was to be a surface access and would go around the runway.

Vital passageway

The access road is vital to the Terminal 3's operations because it will serve as the passageway for passengers and. cargo between the terminals.

Naia general manager Guillermo Cunanan said in a statement the building of the original access tunnel was not made an integral part of the concession agreement, but was to be subject to further negotiations with the winning bidder.

Cunanan said the task of building the tunnel eventually fell to the DOTC which, however, failed to construct it.

The modern tunnel being envisioned was deemed impracticable because the site was prone to flooding due to a nearby creek.

In lieu of the half-kilometer underground tunnel, which would have run under Naia Runway 13/31, a surface road that would go around the runway was agreed on instead.

Piatco even offered to construct the road "at its own expense," said Cunanan.

Osmeña pointed out that such an access road would be too dangerous as it would block the runway and get in the way of several private hangars situated at the other end of the runway.

"The danger to general aviation is going to be terrible. All you need is one plane hitting a bus, or a bus hitting a plane that's taxiing," said Osmeña.

An "overpriced" access road was a poor substitute for the tunnel, he said.

"So we have a brand-new, spanking Terminal 3 but a Third World access road," chimed in Arroyo, adding that "a world-class airport always has a tunnel."

DOTC agreed

Arroyo said Piatco owner Cheng Yong had declared they could not build the tunnel, that the alternative was a road that turned out to be a long and roundabout route, and that the DOTC had agreed.

"And here is the corruption. The DOTC (officials) knew that it was a roundabout road and they approved it," said Arroyo.

He said the blue ribbon committee, which he also chairs and which investigated the terminal project last year, was "even fooled" by the DOTC officials.

"We didn't even know that it was a roundabout road. We thought it would be a road on top of the tunnel. It's only now that we realized that it's a roundabout road," added Arroyo.

"No tunnel, no road, and who pays for that? The government, the taxpayers," he said.

Did Gloria, US ink secret pact?

By Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may not have disclosed "everything she has committed" to giving the United States in exchange for the aid package that she obtained during her recent state visit to Washington, said Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Ocampo raised this concern yesterday as he cited reports that the Philippines recently signed an agreement granting US troops "immunity" from prosecution before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

He said the agreement "practically allows GIs to act at will while in Philippine territory and would render useless any effort to regulate their actions, such as a terms of reference for the Balikatan exercises."

Presidential briefing

The President will be giving a briefing today on her US visit to the country's biggest business organizations led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manual A. Roxas II.

Roxas said Ms Macapagal will be detailing the economic benefits and military aid that President George W. Bush has committed to the Philippines, he said.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said most businessmen were curious about the details of the economic package, particularly on whether they would benefit from concessions granted to select Philippine products.

Increased quota

Among the products that would benefit from increased access to the US are carrageenan, dried mangoes, pineapple juice, garments and tuna.

Roxas said the President had obtained the consent of the US to work toward improving the access and increasing the quota allocation of the Philippines under the US General System of Preferences (GSP).

Ocampo said the signing of the immunity accord which allegedly took place on May 13, or five days before the President left for her US visit, was "evidently done in secret and without consulting Congress."

The US has signed similar bilateral accords, which "prohibits (these countries) from turning over US soldiers facing charges at the ICC," Ocampo said.

The party-list representative asked whether this "waiver" was part of Ms Macapagal's "gift" to the Bush administration in exchange for military aid, America's recognition of the Philippines as a major non-Nato ally, and "continued US intervention" in Mindanao.

$30 million

Ocampo said he believes that the government signed the agreement "to finally secure an initial $30 million in military aid which has been dangled by the Bush administration since last year."

"If this is so, then why was the deal signed in secret and even without consulting Congress?" he asked.

For the sake of transparency, the President should also reveal everything she has committed to the Bush government "in the name of the Filipino people," Ocampo said.

The deal has "grave implications" on the country's international standing, he said.

"Instead of aligning itself with the 90 countries that have so far ratified the Rome statute to uphold international justice and human rights, the Philippines has unashamedly chosen those seeking to undermine the ICC's authority and protect US interests." *With a report from Gil Cabacungan*

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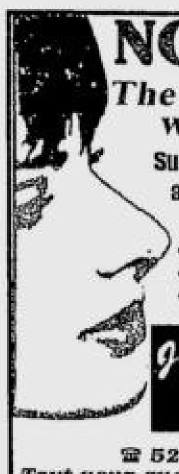

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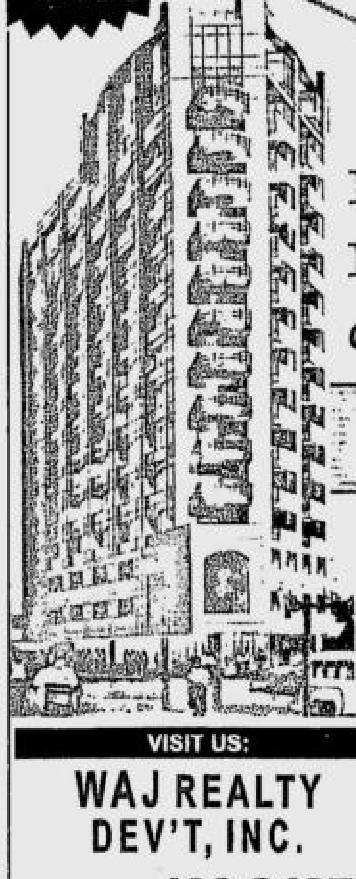

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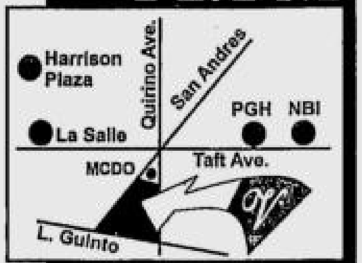

Yunos linked to JI, al-Qaida

By TJ Burgonio

HOW BIG a catch is Saifullah Yunos?

Yunos, the alleged chief of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's special operations group, is the key to uncovering the extent of the al-Qaida network's tentacles in the Philippines, police officials said yesterday.

National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said interrogation brought out that Yunos had direct links not only with the Southeast Asia-based terror group Jemaah Islamiah (JI), but also with the al-Qaida international terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

Ebdane said Yunos was an original Afghan mujahedeens.

"He was trained in Afghanistan. He had connections with the al-Qaida organization. He's the top man and he has been accounted for," said Ebdane.

Yunos, also known as Muklis, and an Egyptian named Al Gabre Mahmud were arrested in Cagayan de Oro City on Sunday.

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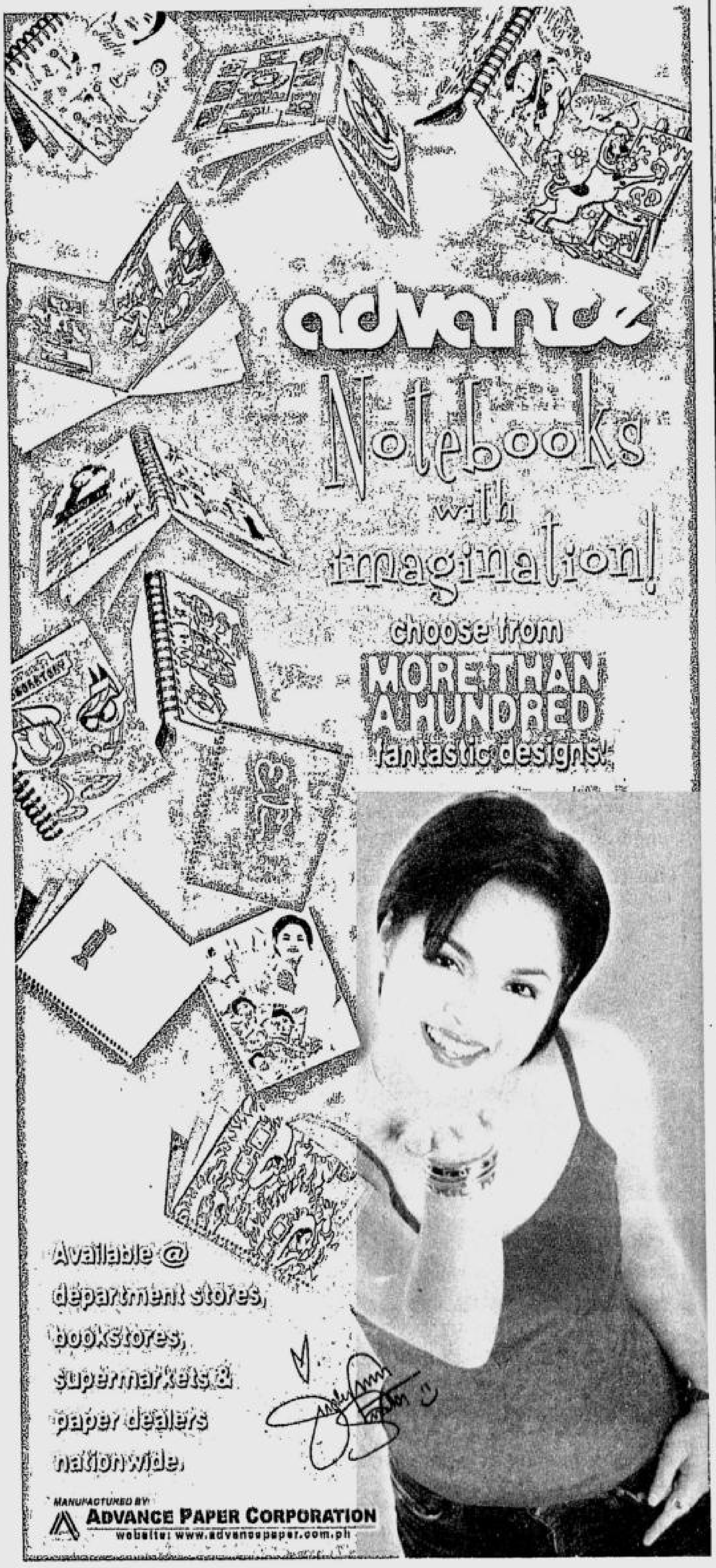

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

Another Norwegian cruise ship crewman dies in Florida

ANOTHER crew member of the cruise ship whose boiler exploded in Florida, USA, over the weekend has died of his injuries, bringing the death toll to six.

Winston Lewis, 53, died at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, said Norwegian Cruise Line spokesperson Susan Robison. Lewis was a steward from Jamaica who had worked with the cruise line for 31 years.

Another 12 crew members were still hospitalized, including three in critical condition, Robison said.

Lewis' death followed that of Filipino Mari John Bautista, who had initially survived. The four other dead who perished in the blast were all Filipinos.

More than 15 crew members, most of them Filipinos, were injured when a boiler exploded Sunday aboard the docked ship, sending debris and a blast of steam through parts of the 41-year-old Norway. None of the more than 2,100 passengers was hurt.

So far two crew members, one of them a Filipino, have sued the company for their injuries.

The Norwegian Cruise Line called the lawsuit "opportunistic" and "baseless."

The identity of the second crew member who sued was not immediately available.

In the Philippines, international lawyers are wooing the relatives of the five Filipino seamen killed by the explosion.

"Lawyers from all over the world have been calling. Some of them were even speaking Spanish," a source privy to the communications said.

The Philippine government is taking a hands-off stance in the matter, saying the filing of a suit was the "personal decision" of affected parties.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas admitted, however, that such suits could have "some effect" on the marketability of Filipino seafarers.

"It will have some effect on us . . . but it's a decision that has to be reached on a personal level," Sto. Tomas said. *AP; Blanche S. Rivera*

'Women, know your rights'

TO EDUCATE women on their legal rights, the Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines (WRMP) is sponsoring a roundtable symposium, "On the Property Rights of Women Under the Family Code," at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City on Saturday at 1-5 p.m.

Former Commission on Human Rights chair Aurora Navarette Recina is guest of honor and speaker, according to WRMP president Villa Granada de Guia .

Chair and co-chair of the meet are Dr. Carmencita T. Aguilar and Beth Montecillo, respectively.

De Guia said all interested women are invited to the conference.

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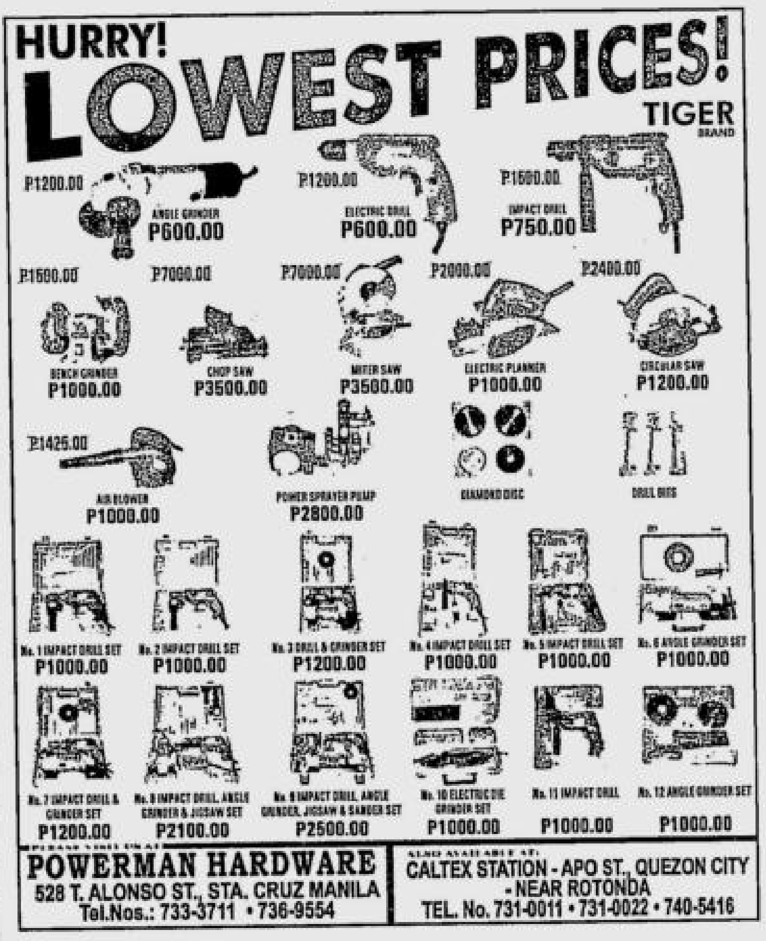
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Noli Galang, graphic designer, dies at 67

GRAPHIC designer Noli C. Galang, who worked at The Sunday Times Magazine in the early 60's, died of heart failure on May 28. He was 67.

In 1964, Galang moved from The Manila Times to the J. Walter Thompson ad agency.

From there, he moved to Hong Kong where he was art director at The Asia Magazine and the Southeast Asian business magazine, Insight.

Later, he worked as a graphic designer for Asiaweek in Hong Kong and then for The Straits Times in Singapore.

In 1996, he returned to Manila and embarked on a career as a freelance book designer.

Among his most recent works are the coffee-table books Malate and The Paintings of Bencab.

He is survived by his wife, Nima Tenzing Galang, daughter of Mount Everest climber, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa; son Palden, daughter Pema, and brothers and sisters.

His body lies at Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation is set for the morning of May 31.

Marcoses not too keen about honoring FM 'this way'–Imee

BACOLOD CITY—The pending House bill declaring Sept. 11 "President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Day" does not excite the late strongman's family.

"I personally, together with my family, am not very fond of this type of honorific," said the late president's eldest daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Marcos told a news conference yesterday she was "a little bit wary and gun-shy" about House Bill No. 5147, which was filed by her father's former ally, Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan.

"I worry that it will bring flak. On the other hand, I appreciate the effort of Congressman Ablan, but I am certain it will elicit quite a lot of controversy again," said Marcos.

The Ablán bill seeks to declare Sept. 11, the late President's birthday, a non-working holiday in Ilocos Norte to be known as Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Day.

The bill, however, is being strongly opposed by Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, who was a political prisoner during martial law, which Marcos declared in 1972.

Satur said earlier that giving Marcos a holiday would be "the height of insult" to the victims of human rights violations during his regime, most of whom to this day have not received the compensation a US court ordered the Marcoses to pay them.

HB 5147 has passed the committee level and will now be sent to the plenary, Imee Marcos said.

Ms Marcos was in Negros Occidental to speak before a women's group in Bago City.

During the press conference that followed, she was asked if her frequent visits to the provinces were a precursor to a run for the Senate in 2004.

"I am going around as the head of the House sub-committee on tourism, not necessarily to campaign," she said.

But she admitted she has been "forced" to think about the possibility of running for senator after her name emerged in the surveys of probable senate candidates. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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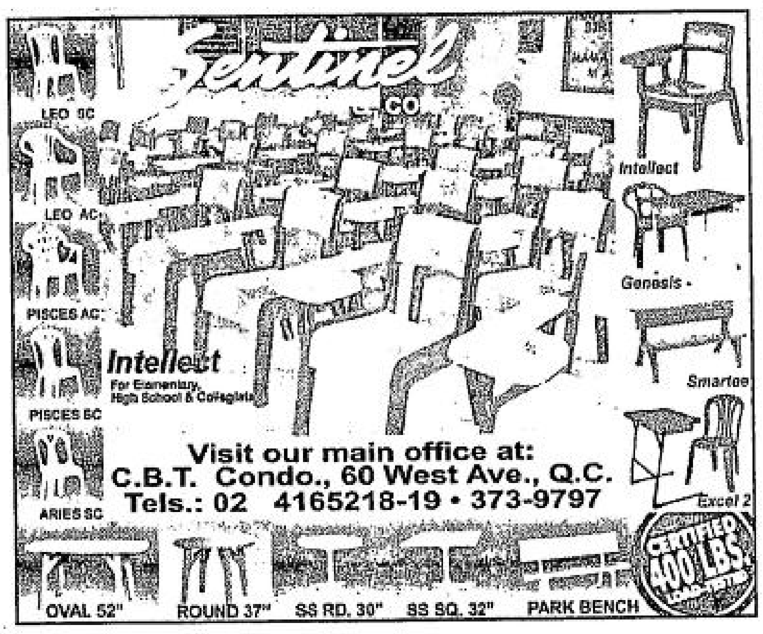
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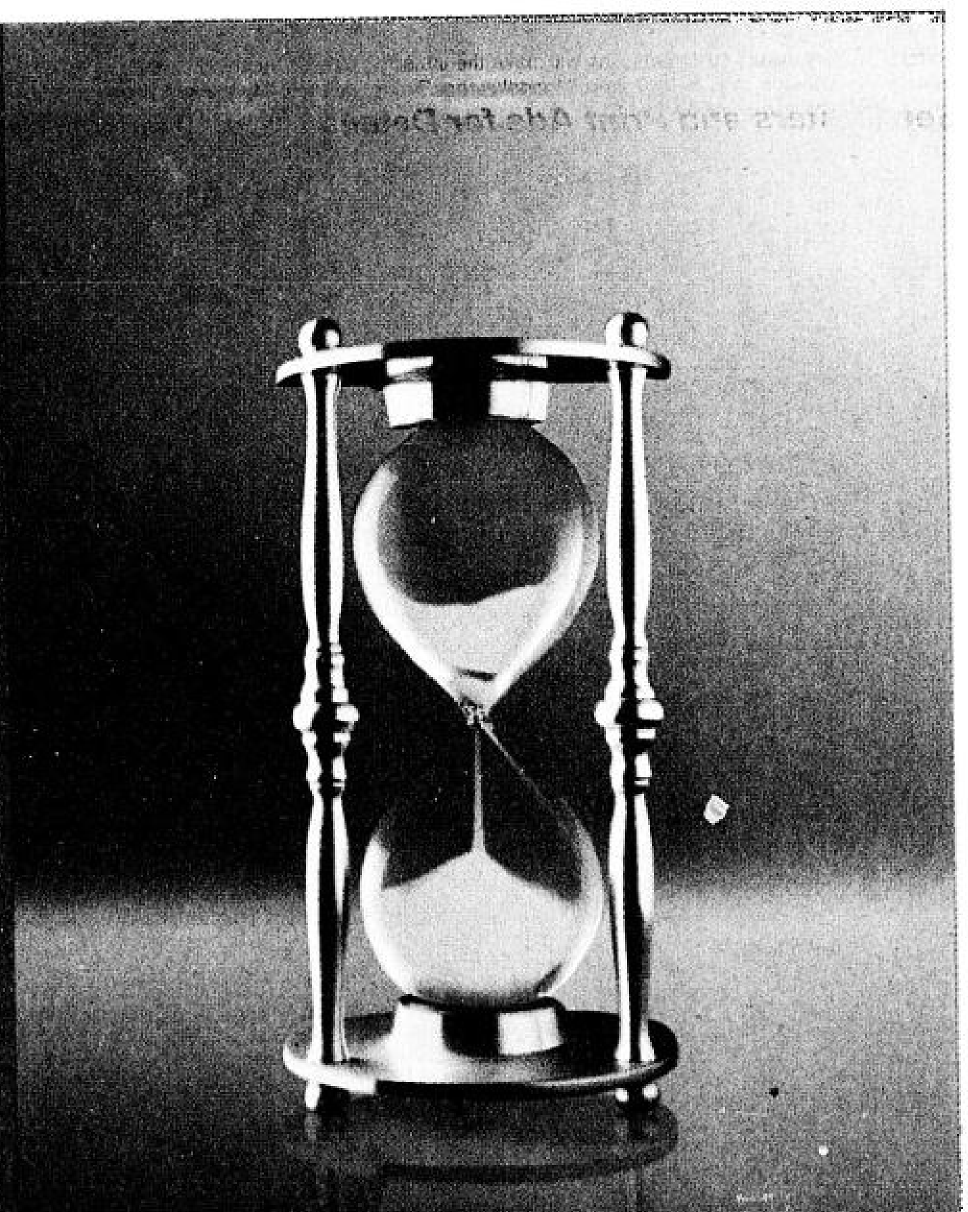
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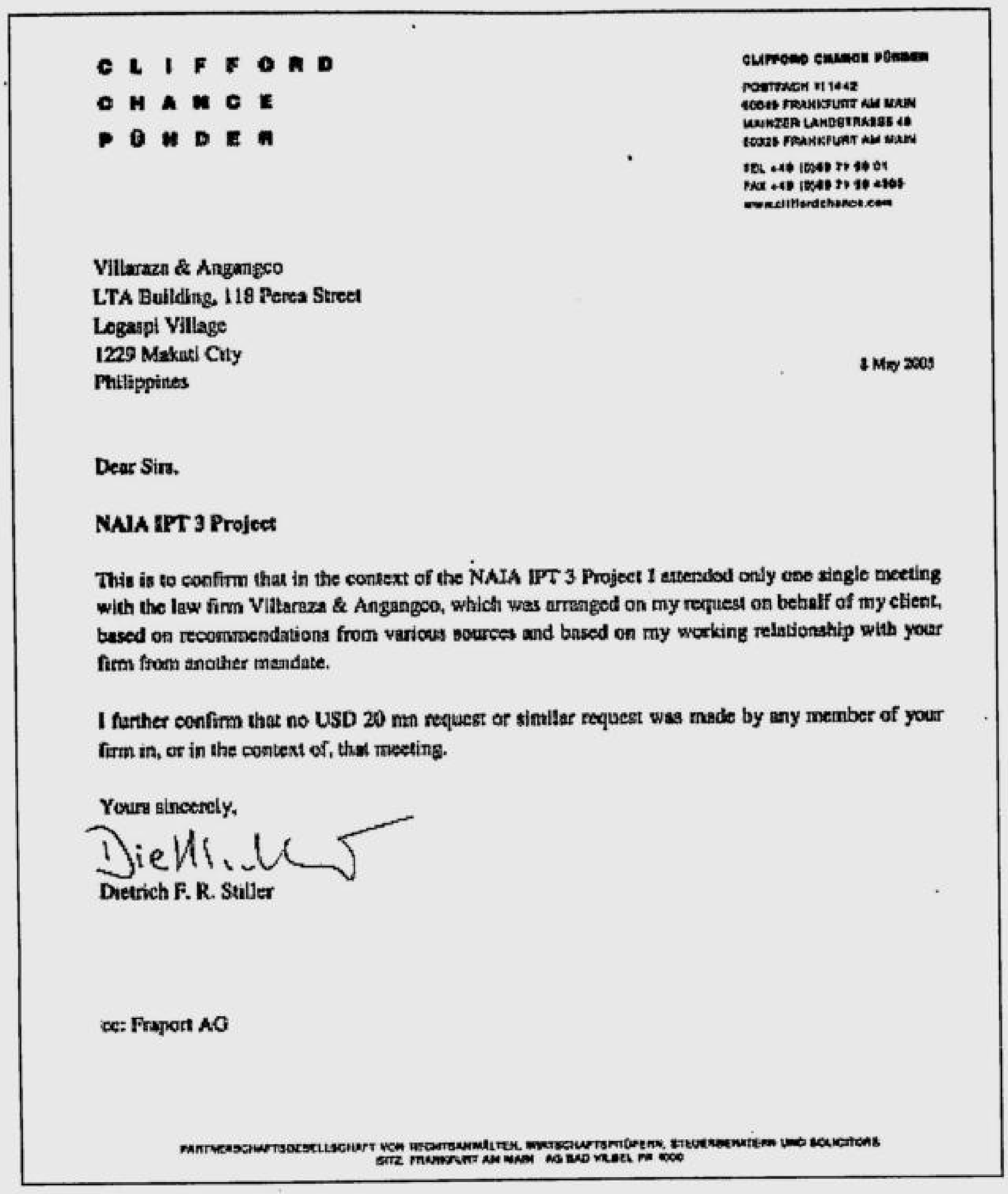
Solely for the TRUTH

For the past weeks, Ninez Cacho-Olivares has printed a series of commentaries ascribing to the firm of Villaraza & Angangco and its managing partner, F. Arthur L. Villaraza an alleged attempt to extort $20 million from the German firm Fraport AG, an investor in the Airport Terminal 3 Project. Ms. Olivares cited as her source, what she admits to be an illegally recorded conversation of Fraport officials in her possession.

As a background, Fraport had repeatedly sought to engage the services of the law firm of Villaraza & Angangco for assistance in regard to PIATCO's NAIA 3 project. The law firm consistently declined to entertain the requests, as it is the firm's policy not to accept any engagement which may eventually lead it to take a position adverse to the government. However, as a courtesy to Fraport's counsel, the law firm granted them a single meeting sometime February 2002. At this meeting, which lasted (20) twenty minutes, the law firm again categorically declined the offer of engagement by Fraport, and explained the reason why. There was therefore, absolutely no discussion whatsoever in regard to fees of any kind during this meeting. No further meeting transpired.

In a letter dated 08 May 2003, Fraport's counsel, Dr. Dietrich Stiller, who was alleged by Ms. Olivares to be one of the voices in the illegally recorded private conversation, confirmed the foregoing facts and, therefore, categorically belied the Olivares reports on the alleged extortion attempt. His letter is printed as follows:



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8 May 2003

Dear Sirs,

NAIA IPT 3 Project

This is to confirm that in the context of the NAIA IPT 3 Project I attended only one single meeting with the law firm Villaraza & Angangco, which was arranged on my request on behalf of my client, based on recommendations from various sources and based on my working relationship with your firm from another mandate.

I further confirm that no USD 20 mn request or similar request was made by any member of your firm in, or in the context of, that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Dietrich F. R. Stiller

cc: Fraport AG

A copy of the letter of Dr. Dietrich Stiller negating the alleged extortion attempt was dutifully furnished Ms. Olivares by the firm. However, despite knowledge of the denial by Dr. Dietrich Stiller of the alleged extortion attempt, Ms. Olivares continued to print her malicious and libelous reports and commentaries on the matter.

Worse, the false reports still saw print despite Ms. Olivares's own written admission that the basis of the series of malicious stories was an illegally-acquired tapped conversation of Fraport officials. These false reports were printed despite the fact that the contents of the alleged recording are obviously mere fabrications.

If Ms. Olivares believes that there was such an attempt at extortion, why hasn't she, or Fraport for that matter, sued the law firm or any of its partners? Her continuing inaction clearly indicates that her libelous reports and commentaries are not intended to be objective, fair and accurate as is expected of legitimate journalism, but rather nothing but black propaganda.

On the other hand, the law firm and Atty. Villaraza felt aggrieved by the libelous publications of Ms. Olivares. Accordingly they have sued and there are now nineteen (19) counts of libel cases pending against Ms. Olivares.

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GMA richer not surprising

From page A1

increase in her net worth from 2001 to 2002.

Besides, Bunye said, the President's declaration of assets and liabilities for 2002 was actually a joint statement with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who belongs to one of the old rich families in the country.

"If you're familiar with banking transactions ... I think even the interest alone can cover the increase in the assets," Bunye said during a media briefing.

Asked whether Ms Macapagal's declared wealth was a reflection of the First Couple's conjugal properties, Bunye said: "I believe the assets are reflected together."

Only 7.8% increase

For 2002, the First Couple had a declared net worth of P72.04 million, compared to P66.7 million in 2001. The statement of assets and liabilities that Ms Macapagal filed in April showed that she and her husband had assets worth P75.55 million against a liability of P3.5 million.

Bunye pointed out that the First Couple's net worth grew by only 7.8 percent.

Based on the couple's declaration, the biggest increases for 2002 were noted in jewelry (P3.2 million) and appliances and furniture (P2.05 million). In their 2001 declaration, jewelry was valued at P1.2 million and appliances and furniture were valued at P550,000.

In 2001, the First Couple's declared cash on hand and in the banks totaled P54.3 million; this increased to P55.7 million in 2002.

Bunye explained that the increase in cash holdings "does not reflect the possible interest income" and "so it is very much possible also that what was not reflected in cash on hand is what accounts for the increase in other assets like jewelry and furniture."

In short, the First Couple apparently used the interest income they had earned from their cash to buy jewelry and appliances and furniture.

The President officially receives a salary of P600,000 per year, Bunye said.

Asked why the First Couple's statement of assets and liabilities did not reflect Mr. Arroyo's properties in Negros and Makati, Bunye said: "This (statement) is something that is prepared by their accountant."

He reiterated that Ms Macapagal's financial records were considered "public records" open to public scrutiny.

Brains reloaded . . .

From page A1

found some video games give a remarkable boost to visual skills.

Cognitive experts Shawn Green and Daphne Bavelier of the University of Rochester in New York state, set up a series of experiments to compare the responses of non-gamers with those who play several times a week and have at least six months' experience under their belt.

In the first test, there were six circles which were either empty or had a symbol inside. The volunteers, most of them male and all aged between 18 and 23, had to match the symbol with a larger one, to the side of the screen.

Veteran gamers were spectacularly faster than their non-gaming counterparts, especially when the test became harder and the circles filled up with odd symbols.

Another experiment dwelt on a bottleneck in visual processing called the "attentional blink"—identifying a target that appears very quickly (between two-tenths and half a second) after a first one.

Again, the gamers performed brilliantly, identifying the second target almost twice as quickly and accurately as their non-playing counterparts.

"Video-game playing enhances the capacity of visual attention and its spatial distribution," Green and Bavelier say in Thursday's issue of Nature, the British science weekly. "Clearly, these individuals have an increased ability to process information over time."

Why, though, is unclear.

It could be that gamers are able to process a single target more quickly, or their minds can easily juggle several "attention windows" at the same time, the scientists suggest.

The pair wanted to make sure it was the games themselves—rather than any innate qualities in the gamers they selected—that were responsible for these enhanced talents.

And they were curious to find out which kind of game could boost specific skills.

So they set up two groups of non-players and trained them on one of two games, for an hour per day for 10 consecutive days.

One was an action video game, Medal of Honor: Allied Assault, in which the player takes the role of a World War II soldier; the other was the popular game Tetris, in which a shaped block floats down from the top of the screen and has to be slotted into the right place with others at the bottom.

After their training, the guinea pigs were put back on the original experiments.

Those who had been playing Medal of Honor showed a big improvement, whereas the Tetris volunteers shown an almost negligible change.

"By forcing players to simultaneously juggle a number of varied tasks (detect new enemies, track existing enemies and avoid getting hurt, among others), action-video-game playing pushes the limits of three rather different aspects of visual attention," the study says.

"Although video-game playing may seem to be rather mindless, it is capable of radically altering visual attentional processing."

Video games have been around for more than three decades, but in recent years they have been attacked for their glorification of violence and painless depiction of death and, in racing games, encouragement of reckless driving.

There was special handwringing after the Columbine massacre in Colorado in 1999, when it was found that the two American teens who carried out the multiple slaying were fanatical players of a shoot-'em-up game called Doom.

A study published in April 2000 by the US Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that realistic graphics and extreme violence in video games clearly contributed to bouts of aggressive behavior and long-term delinquency. *AFP*

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RP applies for OIC observer status

From page A1

the OIC to a Filipino official the level of a foreign minister. The 57-member global bloc of Islamic states are now holding their 30th session in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Truce welcomed

The OIC's foreign ministers did not only welcome Foreign Secretary Blas Ople as a "guest" but also the truce offered by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Ople told the foreign ministers that the Philippine government is prepared to give the MILF a permanent ceasefire and a final peace agreement.

"(But) their sincerity is still subject to proof," Ople told the OIC on the first day of its meeting on Wednesday.

On the same day, Ople, who became the highest Filipino official to take part in the annual OIC foreign ministers' meeting, submitted the Philippines' formal bid for observer status.

"The OIC foreign ministers welcome the reported declaration by the MILF of a unilateral ceasefire and President Macapagal-Arroyo's sympathetic response," Ople said in a statement sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs from the Iranian capital.

Bottom line

Ople said the bottom line is that the MILF should cease all attacks on civilian communities, sabotage actions against vital public installations, and turn over criminal elements operating in their midst or under their mantle of protection.

"If the MILF leaders prove sincere, they will be rewarded with a just and generous peace," Ople said.

Ople said the OIC ministers who have spoken so far are unanimous in denouncing terrorism in all its forms and called on all member states to unite against all acts of terror.

In the keynote speech delivered by President Mohammad Khatami of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the highly respected Iranian leader strongly reiterated his theme of a dialogue to replace the clash of civilizations, religions and cultures.

While Khatami singled out Israel for criticism as a state engaged in organized terrorism against Palestinians, he also sounded a warning against the use of Islam to justify any form of terrorism.

RP delegation

Ople, who heads the Philippine delegation, submitted the Philippine bid in a bilateral meeting with Morocco's Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the OIC secretary general.

With Ople in the meeting were Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Parouk Hussein and Philippine Ambassadors Rodrigo Aragon (Iran), Rafael Seguis (Indonesia) and Bahnarim Guinomla (Saudi Arabia).

Application supported

Hussein is concurrent chair of the Moro National Liberation Front (MLF), which is recognized by the OIC as the sole legitimate representative of the Bangsa Moro people in the Philippines.

Hussein "warmly supported the Philippine government's bid."

"The Philippines qualifies to be an observer because it has a substantial Islamic population not necessarily confined to Muslim Mindanao but scattered all over the country including the capital, Metro Manila," Ople said in a statement sent to the home office from Tehran.

"The Philippine government has (likewise) substantially complied with its obligations under the GRP-MNLF final peace agreement of 1996, which the OIC had helped mediate to a successful outcome," he added.

Under the OIC charter, only states with majority Muslim populations may be accepted as members.

Ople hopes that the qualifications he mentioned will be enough to make the Philippines a permanent OIC observer.

Ople expressed optimism that the Philippine application, supported by a resolution to be filed by Indonesia, chair of the OIC Committee of the Eight monitoring the Muslim situation in Mindanao will be formally endorsed to the OIC Summit for final approval next October, to be chaired and hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Enriching Islamic contacts

"The Philippines' admission to the OIC as an observer state will open new vistas of opportunities for enriching contacts with the entire, universal Islamic world in terms of national security, economic cooperation and cultural interchange," Ople said.

"This will be an important milestone in our diplomatic history," he added.

Ople has given himself a full schedule of bilateral meetings with the OIC foreign ministers at the margins of the ongoing ministerial conference.

Also with the Philippine delegation was Assistant Secretary Candidato Gutoc of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of Middle Eastern and African Affairs.

Ople's delegation is predominantly Muslim.

Besides Dr. Farouk Hussein, the other Muslim leaders include Ali Hussain Hamsain, Edmund Kamendan, Hassan Jawals, Habib Hashim and Alvarez Isnaj.

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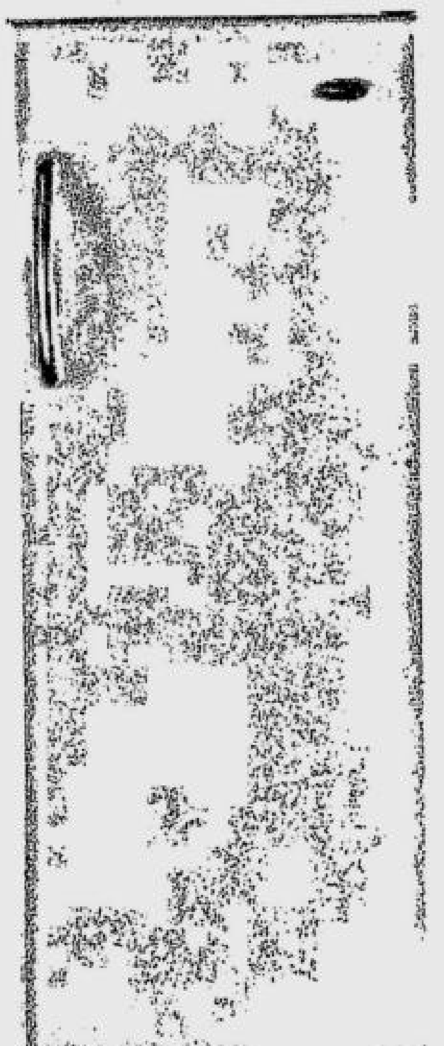

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Pressure on the MILF

EDITORIAL

THE DECLARATION by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front of a 10-day unilateral ceasefire as a first step toward the resumption of peace negotiations was not exactly surprising. While the country's Catholic bishops and other peace advocates have been pressing the government to return to the negotiating table, a confluence of events has put much greater pressure on the secessionist group to do the same thing.

The military may claim most of the credit for forcing the rebel group to call for a cessation of hostilities. That would be an exaggeration. The renewed offensive that started in February has been anything but a smashing success, considering that 200 people have been killed since then, many of them non-combatants, and some 350,000 civilians have been driven away from their homes. The real pressure has come from other sources and in varied forms.

One is the substantial military and economic assistance pledged by the US government during the fruitful visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo. This includes 30 helicopters and various military equipment and training as well as about $30 million in economic projects linked to the peace process in Mindanao. At the very least, the MILF could be facing in the future a better trained and better equipped military and possibly a Muslim constituency that would be unhappy over lost economic opportunities.

On the diplomatic front, the MILF suffered a major setback when the Organization of the Islamic Conference invited Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople to come as a "guest" to the foreign ministers' meeting in Tehran, Iran. It was the first time such an invitation was extended to the Philippine government by the influential organization, which used to frown at attempts by the government to present its side regarding its conflict with Islamic secessionist groups like the MILF and earlier the Moro National Liberation Front. That invitation could be read as a signal of the OIC's displeasure with the MILF which has been blamed for the bombings in Davao City and Koronadal as well as the raid in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte that left 32 people dead.

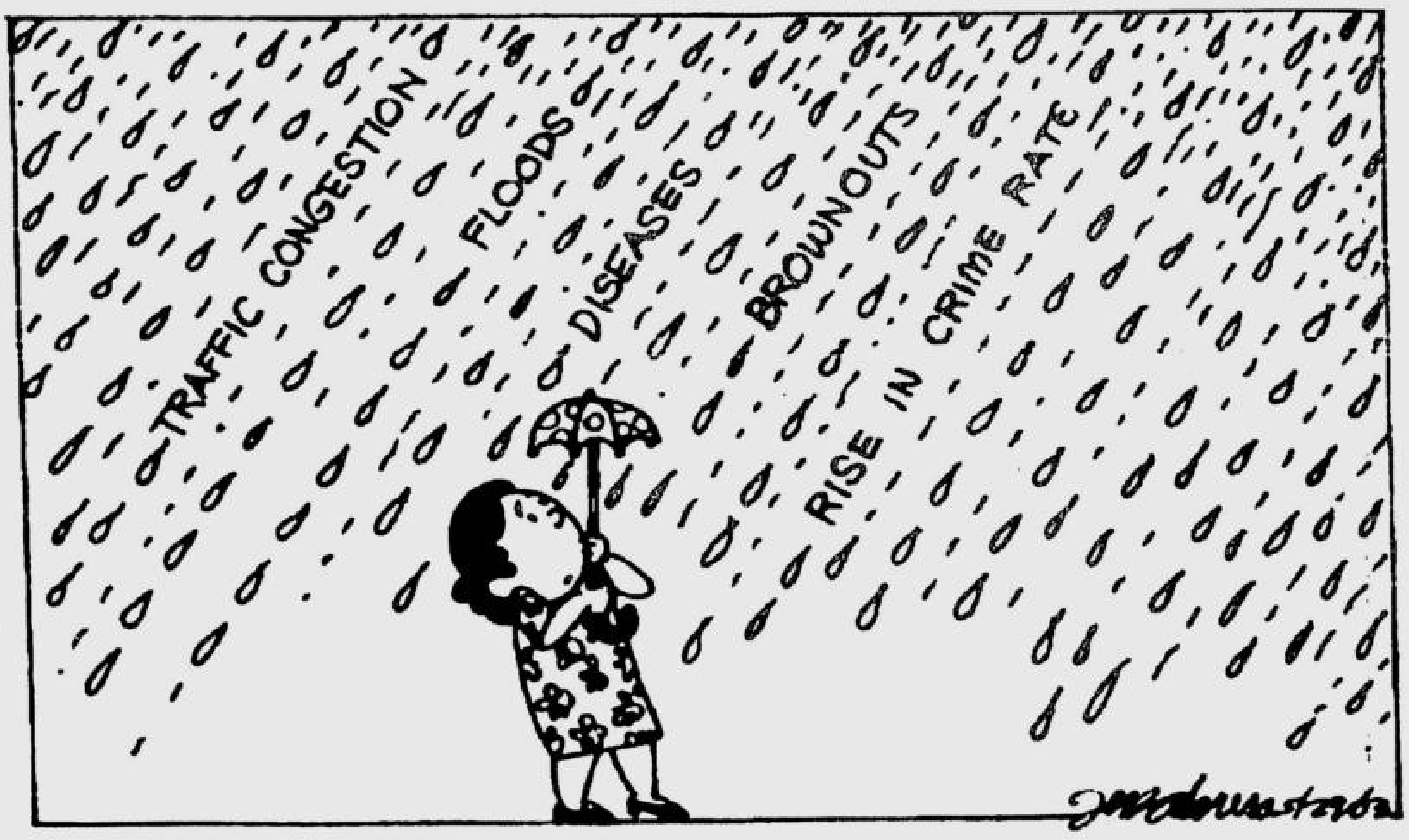
Just as damaging to the image of the MILF is the growing body of evidence and testimony about its links with international terrorist organizations like Jemaah Islamiyah. Two of the accused in the bombing on the island resort of Bali, Indonesia, have admitted contacts with the MILF, with one of them claiming that he had trained some MILF fighters in Mindanao. A terrorist tag could turn it into a pariah in official circles as Islamic governments appear to have started cracking down on terrorist organizations.

Under these circumstances, it was probably just a matter of time before the MILF sued for peace. But while the MILF is certainly at a big disadvantage, it would be folly for the government to press it harder, as defense and military officials seem to be suggesting. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has rejected a temporary ceasefire, saying the MILF could use the lull in fighting to "regroup and reorganize" like it had done in the past. Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Southern Command, sees the ceasefire declaration as a "tactical move" forced upon the MILF by "heavy losses" in the field of battle. Nothing short of the surrender of those responsible for the recent attacks on civilian targets would make the military stop its operations, he said.

Under such terms, there can be no breakthrough in the search for peace. The highest leaders of the MILF are among those charged for the bombings in Davao and other violent incidents the government has labeled as acts of terrorism. Without them, who will the government be talking peace with? And what kind of peace agreement will they produce?

It is ironic that the military would continue to talk tough and advice against welcoming peace overtures from the other side at this time. Only last Wednesday, the 90-day deadline set by their commander in chief for the AFP to crush the Abu Sayyaf lapsed. And the top military officer in Sulu had to admit that the AFP did not get the job done. If the military cannot finish off a band of kidnappers that counts no more than 300 members, it deludes itself if it thinks it can deliver the death blow to a secessionist movement with tens of thousands of armed followers.

The President has welcomed the MILF's ceasefire declaration as a "positive development," although she said she would like to see further proof of its "sincerity" and its leadership's capacity to enforce compliance among its members. Given a realistic time frame, that seems reasonable enough. Maybe the President should start trusting her own instincts more than the counsel of the many hawks around her.



Who is the real President of the Philippines?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

COPIES of a pamphlet by Erap's new lawyer, law professor Alan F. Paguia, are circulating in journalistic and legal circles. Titled "Estrada vs. Arroyo: Rule of Law or Rule of Force?" it questions the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President of the Philippines. In clear, simple and logical terms, Paguia analyzes the events before, during and after Jan. 20, 2001 when then Vice President Macapagal took her oath of office before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as President. Paguia contends that her proclamation as President was void from the beginning because it did not follow the constitutional due process. That whether we like it or not, Joseph Estrada "remains the true President of the republic," and that he may have lost the "power," but not the "authority," of the presidency.

From the very beginning, there have been doubts as to the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency, doubts even from the foreign press. "Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency in constitutional circumstances that do not stand up to scrutiny," said The Economist in its July-August 2001 issue. "People Power 2 was met with doubt and criticism, described by foreign commentators as a 'defeat of due process,' as 'mob rule,' as 'a de facto coup'...This time it appears people power was used not to restore democracy but, momentarily, to supplant it," said Seth Mydans in the New York Times of Feb. 6, 2001.

"The change of power in the Philippines was no boost for democracy because it was done outside the Constitution," said the Associated Press on Jan. 26, 2001. And Jim Mann wrote in the Jan. 24, 2001 Los Angeles Times: "No matter how understandable it was, this outburst of people power doesn't feel like an advance for the cause of democracy, quite the opposite..."

However, because Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency had the imprimatur of the Supreme Court, and Congress has recognized her as President, the people seem to have accepted her.

But Paguio questions the tribunal's basis for swearing her in as President when the position was not vacant. It was still occupied by Estrada.

The basis for the succession is Art. VII, Section 8 of the Constitution:

"In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term..."

On the morning of Jan. 20, 2001, then Vice President Macapagal sent a letter to the Supreme Court informing it that President Estrada "is permanently incapable of performing his duties resulting in his permanent disability to govern..." and that she was assuming the position as President and would like to take her oath of office before the Chief Justice at 12 noon at the Edsa Shrine.

The rest is history seen by millions of people on Edsa and on television. But was that oath-taking constitutional? It was not, said Paguia, because there was no compliance with the constitutional requirements regarding "permanent disability." Art. Section 11 of the Constitution requires the written declaration of permanent disability either by the President himself or by the majority of all the members of his Cabinet. No such written declaration was claimed or presented.

It seems that the justices themselves, after accepting the "permanent disability" ground, belatedly realized that it was constitutionally indefensible. But by then, Ms Macapagal was already acting as President. So they changed the ground for succession from "permanent disability" to "resignation."

So the justices devised the so-called "totality test" which construed the factual events before, during and after the controversial oath-taking to be able to support the conclusion that President Estrada had "resigned." In other words it was a "constructive resignation," an implied one.

So is the Supreme Court ruling in Estrada vs. Macapagal-Arroyo to the effect that President Estrada had "resigned" a judicially closed matter or does it remain an open question?

It remains an open question, said Paguia. He wrote:

"The substantive distinction between 'public office' and 'public officer' applies squarely to the Supreme Court vis-à-vis its Members or Justices. Whatever is done lawfully by the 'public officer' in the performance of his official duties is considered the act of the 'public office.' Otherwise, it is not. Jurisprudence has recognized those individual 'public officers' who falsely speak and act in the name of their 'public office' (Urbano vs. Chavez, 183 SCRA 347, citing Poindexter vs. Greenhow, 114 US 270 [1885]), in which case, the unlawful word or deed is NOT of the 'public office.' As an alter ego of the State, the Supreme Court can speak and act only by law and whatever it does say and do must be lawful, and that which is unlawful is not the word or deed of the Court, but is the mere wrong or trespass of those individual Justices who falsely speak and act in its name."

The Code of Judicial Conduct strictly prohibits judges from participating in partisan political activities. By personally attending and administering the oath of office to Vice President Macapagal, the justices failed to avoid public suspicion of political partisanship, Paguia said. The perception created is that they have lost the appearance of the cold neutrality of an impartial judge, and they had prejudged the controversy in favor of Ms Macapagal. There was a failure of due process.

Paguia concludes: Therefore, Ms Macapagal's proclamation as President is void from the beginning. And therefore, Estrada is still the President.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: More on this at the Kapihan sa Manila on Monday with Paguia and lawyer Romulo Macalintal as panelists.

Rain

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MOST times, I prefer rain to sun. It's hard to write in scorching heat, and the electric fan, which blows warm air for the most part, gives me breathing problems. I had asthma as a kid, and though I outgrew it in elementary school, I still feel a tightening in the chest when the source of my allergy sets in. That is sudden changes in climate, or temperature. This summer has been especially cruel to me, I could feel the heat like wave upon wave of a marauding army storming a keep.

So when it began raining last weekend, I was sublimely grateful. That was before it rained and rained and rained. As I write this, the rain hasn't stopped falling, variously in torrents, in tempestuous fury, and in slow droning patter. When I drove out early this week, I thought there was something different about the streets. Then suddenly it hit me. There were no street children in the streets. I used to see them in the intersection of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, some of them probably barely 5 years old carrying infants on their backs, tapping on car windows. Some played in the streets, grimy toddlers tossing coins on the pavement.

That was when I stopped being grateful for the buckets of water pouring on the streets. At least in the dead of summer, the children could sleep off the effects of tiredness and rugby on the sidewalks, particularly at night when this much polluted mega city cooled down a little. At least in the dead of summer, they did not have to be dead.

Not in the rain. Not in rain that doesn't seem to want to stop.

Tuesday was the worst day of all. It was a day that began with dark skies and a gray world, looking out of focus from a haze of whipping rain, accompanied by a wheezing wind, the kind that emitted the sounds an asthmatic might make. It was like that nearly the whole day, taking a break only for about an hour or so in the afternoon. I told myself it was heaven's way of expressing an opinion: The skies wept on the day I was born.

The talk over a few bottles of beer—okay, not so few—inevitably drifted to floods and storms and calamitous rain. I said my mother's all-time bad storm was Typhoon Trix. I don't know if that is the correct spelling, it sounds that way. My mother is 90 years old, and her mind began drifting past the boundaries of time a couple of years ago, after a minor stroke. But she still remembers Typhoon Trix, or more than remembers, relives it every now and then. Each time she calls on the phone, she says she cannot come home because the winds are howling outside.

My mother lived in Naga City at the time, apparently the center of the storm. At its height, Typhoon Trix blew off roofs and entire houses made of nipa. As my mother told it, we had to abandon the hovel we were living in and seek shelter in a neighbor's house. The floodwaters rose to several feet and pretty much wrecked every piece of furniture in our house.

My own recollection dates back to Typhoon Sening, which was in 1970, I think. That didn't strike Manila very hard, but it did Naga again. I told this story before but for those who haven't heard it yet, it went like this.

It was some days before our semester break. I decided to take a chance going home (my mother and younger brother still lived there, they would move out to Manila a year later), against everyone's advice. The news reports said some bridges had been torn down and parts of the railroad tracks badly damaged going down south.

They were right. The train I took stopped at San Pablo and could go no further. The tracks ahead were unusable. They had begun repair work earlier but a sudden deluge of fresh rain brought it to a halt. The damaged tracks could probably be finished the next day, the conductor said, but they weren't sure. The only choices were to wait or turn back. Well, there was one other choice: That was to take the contraption that plies the railroad tracks in Quezon, the wooden boards propped up by bearings that cling to and roll on the tracks. The thing moves by someone "paddling" it with a long bamboo pole. That is to say, by thrusting the pole to the ground and pushing.

Taking it is neither pleasant nor safe in daytime. In the dark and in driving rain, it was suicidal. I joined a (very) small group of people who were willing to go boldly where no reasonable men had gone before. Being young is feeling invulnerable. But there were a few moments there when I felt my dangling globules of manhood stuck in my throat.

The fear was always that we might be hurtling toward an oncoming train. On a bright day, that was no problem because the "paddler" and his passengers could see and hear the train coming. Everyone could get off and remove the contraption from the tracks to let the train pass. On a dark and stormy night, with all of us covered with a waterproof thing, the kind you roll down in jeepneys to keep off the rain, our vision and hearing were impaired. The problem was the part where the tracks bent. You never knew if you were winding your way into a sudden burst of light and rumbling metal. With only a flashlight to guide us through, which looked like a sharp pin of light in the absolute darkness, it gave the sensation of traversing Hades.

We ended up still on terra firma, none the worse for being scared out of our wits, though much drenched from the water that seeped through our covering. I hopped on to a jeepney and thence to a bus and a train again at various points and finally made it home after a little over a couple of days. Only to find a world made a little brighter amid the gray skies by the branches of trees having disappeared in many places.

Now and then, particularly in weather like this, I still wake up to the sound of a train hooting in the distance.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Rehabilitating a dictatorship

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IT has not taken long before efforts to officially rehabilitate deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and his dictatorship began to take concrete shape. Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. of Ilocos Norte has filed a bill declaring Sept. 11, the dictator's birthday, as "President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos Day."

As if to rub salt on raw wounds, the proposed holiday falls on the same month in which Marcos declared martial law—Sept. 21, 1972. Ablan is apparently testing the waters; his bill seeks to celebrate Marcos Day only in Ilocos Norte, Marcos' home province, where his body is entombed. If the House of Representatives passes the bill, out of camaraderie of its members or historical insensitivity, that would be taken as a signal that the entire nation might be ready for the next step—the national rehabilitation of Marcos.

In Ilocos Norte and in the Ilocos region, Marcos is a folk hero regardless of his political record. He could do no wrong, as far as the Ilocanos are concerned. If it were only possible to elect a corpse to public office, they will vote for Marcos for president again. Proof is that Marcos' son, Ferdinand Jr., is governor of Ilocos Norte, and his daughter, Imee, is representing an Ilocos Norte congressional district in the House. Imee does not have to wait for the rehabilitation of her father. She is already considering running for the Senate on the opposition ticket and is likely to win, riding on the back of the solid Ilocano vote.

Even Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who has indicated he wants to take a crack at the presidency, is not taking lightly the polling power of Imee, in particular, and the Marcos name, in general, to bag the Ilocano regional vote.

The early return to public favor of Marcos, even only on the regional level at this stage, puts the spotlight on the short political memory of Filipinos and their capacity to blot out of their minds events that only a few years ago provoked outrage and political upheavals.

If we compare the memory of Germany with ours, we seem to have a more sieve-like and porous memory. After the fall of Berlin and the death of Hitler in the bunker near the Reichstag in 1945, Germany underwent a long and deep process of denazification as it cut a new path toward being a democracy. Schools, books, reading materials in the post-world war period were cleansed of propaganda and Nazi officials purged. Since the war, a number of books about the Nazi era, the German generals in World War II and Hitler and his senior cohorts, have been written. These books have been published in Germany and in the West, and they have commanded wide readership. For a universally reviled man like Hitler, it is amazing how he continues to draw worldwide interest in the multiple facets of his life and public career that plunged the world into an epic conflict between democracies and fascism.

Regardless of this enormous output of literature on Hitler and the dictatorship, no German government since the post-war government of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has ever given any blessing to official revisionism on Nazi Germany. True, there have been outbreaks of neo-Nazism and there have been pockets of ultra-Right political tendencies—for example the skinheads—especially in the former communist states of East Germany. Many of the new books address the Jewish question and the national guilt over the Holocaust. But German governments, even those after reunification, have sternly put down any resurgence of Nazism. There has been no official attempt to rehabilitate Hitler and Nazism, or to shirk German responsibility for the crimes of the Holocaust.

Many of the post-war literature about the Nazi era are published on the theme of drawing lessons from a dark episode in Germany's history.

The forgiving view in the Philippines is in stark contrast to the angst that has driven the Germans to remorseless self-examination over their war atrocities.

The Marcos dictatorship was a period that not only wrenched the political system like an earthquake. It was marked by horrendous and brutal violations of human rights. It was characterized by the abuse of state power and corruption that ploughed economic assets and wealth into private hands, away from the state and the common good. And yet, 31 years after the clampdown of dictatorship and 17 years after the people rose in revolt and sent Marcos to flight, there is little memory alive about the outrages of the past.

Today, Imelda Marcos struts in public, displaying her opulence, and the bulk of the Marcos wealth eludes efforts of the state to recover the looted assets. Many Marcos henchmen have been rehabilitated, so much so that former torturers of the regime are holding elected office and former cronies have retained economic power and now control corporate conglomerates.

A few years ago, when Marcos' body was flown from Hawaii to be buried in Laoag, a move to have him interred in the cemetery of heroes sparked a torrid national controversy, forcing the Marcos family to withdraw the effort. The time was not ripe and Marcos' body remains in his province, waiting for the opposition to wane and the memory to be erased by the amnesia by a people who refuse to come to terms with their past.

In the earlier period of his presidency, Marcos did much for the country in building its infrastructure, and in the early days of martial law, he established discipline and civic order—but on balance the faults of the regime have cancelled out its achievements. The blurring of memory obscures the determination of justice. It enfeebles the capacity of the nation to punish leaders who have betrayed them by installing them in the official pantheon of heroes instead of shunning them as knaves.

Mending fences with France

COMMENTARY

Jonathan S. Kallmer

WITH RELATIONS between the United States and France at their lowest point in the modern era, President George W. Bush has an opportunity to do something that would greatly advance the interests of both the United States and the world: begin to repair the damage with France.

It could be a private audience with President Jacques Chirac during the upcoming G-8 Summit, renewed engagement by US foreign and trade policy officials, or simply a halt to the gratuitous diplomatic snubs. Ultimately, it does not really matter how "the high road" is defined. What matters is that the Bush administration makes an affirmative, genuine attempt to heal the wounds, to cease the traffic in blame, to resume constructive policy conversations and to think strategically about the challenges that lie ahead and the vital role that a strong alliance with France will play in overcoming them.

The most compelling reasons to make peace with the French are security-related. The United States has before it not just a generation-long war on terrorism, but the imminent threat of a nuclear North Korea, ever simmering tension between nuclear powers India and Pakistan, the strategic ambiguity of a modernizing China and the instability of a Russia lurching toward democracy. It is impossible to imagine overcoming these challenges without the active partnership of the French. It is not simply the value of friendly French veto power on the Security Council, though that still matters. More important is the symbolic message that vibrant US-French relations would send to the rest of the world. If the United States and France are on the same strategic page (and coupled with the reliability of Great Britain), Germany and Russia would be reluctant to defect on key policy matters, the recent deep divisions in the European Union would soften and dictators and terrorists would find themselves under ever greater scrutiny.

There are also economic reasons to mend fences with France. Most important are the consequences that persistent bad blood could have for the current round of World Trade Organization negotiations. It is widely agreed that the success of those talks depends on whether developed countries liberalize their agricultural policies, and that it is the policies of the United States and France (acting through the European Union) that pose the greatest obstacles to such liberalization. If both countries agree to meaningfully reduce their farm subsidies, the rewards will be substantial and widespread. Farm goods will become cheaper, truly competitive producers will thrive and, most important, the developing world will gain an important weapon against poverty. If, on the other hand, the US-French discord persists, such critical progress on agriculture may become the hostage of bilateral animus.

And cultural considerations should not go unheeded. Despite the strong talk of the political commentators and the juvenile behavior of the US House of Representatives, it is far from clear that French and American citizens share their governments' current mutual antipathy. By all accounts the Americans and the French would like to maintain their special brand of ambivalent fondness for one another. It is difficult to imagine that, in the long run, citizens of either country would really not want to eat each other's food, drink each other's drinks, watch each other's films and speed down each other's highways.

The challenge that France poses to American foreign policy is unique and in some ways paradoxical. It is too small to serve as a genuine strategic counterweight, yet it is big enough to mobilize significant opposing coalitions. It is too close a historical ally for the United States to consider discarding, yet it is too politically independent to ever be compliant. It was saved by Americans in two world wars, and indispensable to the creation of the country from which those Americans issued.

The Bush administration admittedly has little incentive to forgo the temptations of a retributive approach. To be sure, most of the costs of taking the high road toward constructive engagement with France would be borne in the short term by the administration and the Republican Party. The benefits, on the other hand, would largely materialize in coming years, in the form of a more peaceful and prosperous international community. Yet on virtually every level but the political, the benefits would greatly outweigh the costs.

President Bush pledged in his 2000 campaign to approach the world with humility. While intervening events have understandably required a more muscular American outlook, all foreign policy decisions should continue to be judged by their capacity to bring long-term, strategic benefits. Just as the threat and use of American force may be necessary to achieve these benefits, so too may be necessary the gentle gloves of a humble diplomacy. It may not serve Bush's immediate interests to accept this, but it will do much more lasting good than the alternative.

Jonathan S. Kallmer practices international litigation and arbitration at the Washington law firm of Hogan & Hartson.

Historical records lost and found

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE cannot imagine the joy of finding something you have spent years searching for. I have a long wish list of materials that I hope will turn up one day. For example, there were a dozen letters to Jose Rizal from a Belgian woman named Suzanne, extant in the National Library before the war. I do not understand why T.M. Kalaw did not include these in the six-volume compilation of letters now known to scholars as the "Epistolario Rizalino." Who was this woman? Why could she tell our national hero, "...so, you bad little boy, hurry up and come back..." These letters, trivial and irrelevant to scholars masking their constipation under academic seriousness, are valuable to my forthcoming book on Rizal's women. These letters were casualties of the 1945 Battle for Manila. Nevertheless, I have faith that these and other precious bits of our history have survived and will be found eventually.

Books are a different category. There were some 18th-century Philippine pamphlets I requested in the British Library. Twice or thrice, my call slip returned saying the material couldn't be found. I inquired from a librarian who replied, "Sorry, I'm afraid you will have to blame the Germans for this. The material you requested was destroyed during a bombing of London during the war." I resisted the urge to laugh hysterically and asked, "If that is so, why is it still listed in your catalogue? Can't you at least mark the item 'destroyed by German bombs 1944'? This way I won't wait and expect and be disappointed." One of the books that eluded me for years was a 1934 treatise on Legal Medicine by Sixto de los Angeles who served for 19 years as professor and chair of the UP Department of Legal Medicine. I did not know what it contained but I searched all around Manila for this as if it were the Holy Grail. I have since given up and consoled myself with the idea that this was a "bibliographic ghost," something that appears in citations but has never been physically seen by anyone in living memory. Well, the book was lying in wait in the library of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. I was not disappointed. Going through all 1,100 pages twice, engaged with a gold mine for fictionists.

On mistaken death there were two cases. In July 1928, Pastora Olivar of Angeles, Pampanga came back to life after her husband had bought a coffin. I hope the *funeraria* did not have a "no return-no exchange policy." For the second case, De los Angeles quoted from the Tribune of June 18, 1926:

"The people of the town of Asturias, Cebu were greatly alarmed when a young girl whom they took for dead and was about to be buried, shouted for aid and cried to be taken out of her coffin. This strange event came about in this way:

"Geronimo, brother of Bernardita Habohan, dreamed one night that he was fighting against great odds and defended himself as best as he could with his bolo. He was awakened by the shrieks of his sister, whom he found bathed in a pool of her own blood as a result of several wounds which he had inflicted on her. Bernardita hovered between life and death for several days until last Friday, when her body suddenly became rigid; then proper steps for her burial were taken. All her friends and relatives gathered in her house and watched the body laid in the coffin; but, when the carpenters were at the point of driving the nails which were to seal the lid forever, everybody heard with great amazement and not a little terror, a noise as of some struggling inside the coffin. Upon opening it, they saw Bernardita turning over and over and moaning to be taken out of the death box. Bernardita became worse as a result of the terrible ordeal."

Being buried alive is a fate worse than death. Nowadays most people are embalmed and thus certifiably dead before burial. Some criminals pretended to be ill like an unnamed burglar who escaped from his guards in the Philippine General Hospital in September 1933. Again from the Tribune and the Herald we read:

"The burglar had been feigning critical illness for 26 days since his confinement in the hospital with a cracked skull. He had succeeded in deceiving the hospital doctors and nurses, the army investigators, the constabulary and the city police. He worked himself out of his handcuffs which had been placed on him when he came out of his coma, tied his bed sheets, bed covers and mosquito net end to end to make a rope, and lowered himself out of the ward's window about 30 feet to the ground.

"The hospital physicians and nurses wondered how the burglar could have lowered himself from the window, much less climb over the screen and make his escape. Since his confinement in the hospital, the burglar had been on a liquid diet and was not given any solid food because of his 'serious condition.'"

Investigation and interviews with other patients in the wards revealed that the thief was not sick for more than four days. He merely kept his eyes shut whenever there were nurses, doctors or police in the ward. He could get up and stole the food and valuables of sleeping patients. First he would pinch the leg of the victim, if he didn't wake up, the food tray and valuables were taken. Doctors thought he was on a liquid diet but he ate enough to feed two men. These and other cases, some gory, some strange may be obsolete for a medical student today, but remain fascinating to the historian and the creative writer.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Remembering Dean Malay

STET. Inverted pyramid. Man bites dog, not dog bites man. Lucullus' Five "W's" and an "H." These terms still come to my mind whenever I recall the journalism classes I took at the University of the Philippines Extension Division in Manila under the now legendary Dean Armando J. Malay.

HIGH BLOOD

Priscilla Gonzalez-Avenir

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

He was tall and lanky with short, cropped hair (still black of course) and bushy eyebrows. He had a great sense of humor that we did not expect at first. Most of us already had a high regard for him because he was a competent journalist and he wrote a widely read column in the Manila Chronicle. That was in the '50s so he must have been in his 40s then, while I was in my early 20s leading a double life, pretending to be a "good" public elementary schoolteacher in the daytime but trying hard to be what I really wanted during the evenings. I would rush to Padre Faura (it took only 30 minutes then to negotiate the distance from Sta. Mesa) where I would attend classes under Professors Capiz, N.V.M. Gonzalez, Zafra, Jamias, a very young Serafin Quiason and my role model, Armando Malay. I kept taking subjects that were close to my heart even though they were not required in the Bachelor of Science in Education course that I had enrolled in to please my father, a school principal who wanted me to follow in his footsteps (bless his soul) and who kept asking why it was taking me so long to finish my degree.

Young as I was then, I did not know whether to feel proud or slighted when Professor Malay asked me if I was really the one who wrote the article I submitted to him the first time he required us to give a sample of our writing. At any rate it got me worried but soon after that, an article of mine appeared in the Sunday Times magazine, and later in the Saturday Mirror. I was relieved.

But I fared poorly in the exams especially when our extracurricular activities in the school where I was teaching became too taxing. The reason I remember the term "stet" was because Professor Malay included it in the exams and I got it wrong. The question went like this: "What do you put above a set of words in your article which you have crossed out already but you decide on second thought to include after all?" I asked my seatmate for the answer and he said "chet." (As a result, I also remember him to this day. I wonder where he is.) Since then, however, I learned to use "stet" hundreds of times in my drafts. He also taught us to follow the format of the so-called "inverted pyramid" when writing the news. He emphasized that pertinent information should be mentioned at once in the lead paragraph and details of diminishing importance may follow so that the reader may at once grasp the gist and should the item be shortened for reasons of space, the main idea of the story would still be intact. He always reminded us that it was not news if a dog bites a man but that it was, if a man bites a dog. Lucullus (pronounced Loo-kool-yoos) was the name of a fellow in one of his funny anecdotes. Such humorous anecdotes lightened our burden of having to attend classes in the evenings when we would at times be tired and hungry.

I also remember the times when I submitted my press releases to him and he would answer the phone good-naturedly when I inquired about them.

My husband Carlos and I seemed to be always meeting in the same courses then (destiny?) and we were classmates in Professor Malay's class. He seemed to be following me around for six years and we were in one of Professor Malay's classes when I decided to beat the deadline (age 30—single ladies were not yet in fashion then) and exchange "I do's" with him. We told Professor Malay about our plans to tie the knot after our last semester. We in the evening classes, mostly working students aside from those in the College of Law, were somehow close to our mentors. At the end of classes at 8:30, we would all be going down the stairs together, exchanging pleasantries and bidding one another goodnight. The janitor would then close the doors of the building.

A year or so after graduation, I happened to meet Professor Malay again and the first thing that he asked me regarding my married life was, "*Mabait ba siya?*" referring of course to my partner. I have not forgotten that occasion and I can still recall his facial expression, bushy eyebrows and all, when he asked me that fatherly question. It was full of concern and, looking back, I realize how indicative it was of his regard for the welfare of others.

Much later, after having five children, I took up graduate studies at UP Diliman. I learned that Professor Malay had become the Dean of Student Affairs and I was glad to see his name on several of my application papers.

Many years again passed and certainly many storms had been weathered, especially on his part, before I saw Dean Malay again in person. He was white-haired and he walked with a cane but he looked quite alert. He went up the stage of the Goethe Institute to receive yet another of his much-deserved awards from Umpil (Writers' Union of the Philippines) amid our applause.

Although I did not become a full-time journalist because I developed a love for teaching and stuck to it for 28 years (to the delight of my father), I continued to be a freelance writer for dailies and magazines and I wrote textbooks and children's stories, etc. I was able to pass on the principles of journalism that I learned from the Great Dean for I became the adviser for the newspaper run by pupils in our elementary school.

Priscilla Gonzalez-Avenir, 72, is a retired public schoolteacher, textbook writer, children's literature advocate and grandmother of three.

THEY SAID

The law

"By law everyone can say this or that, but in our system... it is the Supreme Court which rules on what is legal and what is not."

—Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, dismissing deposed President Joseph Estrada's claim that he is still the country's chief executive

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The 'babying' of Meralco continues

IN THE COMPROMISE agreement between the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and Meralco, the electricity consumers have been betrayed. And Meralco continues to be babied.

In a letter dated May 5, 2003, from Ambassador Sedfrey A. Ordoñez and Antonio V. del Rosario, Malacañang-designated mediators, Agreement Item No. 1 cites a P1.51/kWh price for undrawn electricity. According to Energy Regulatory Commission records, the Napocor's generation cost at this time is about P2.46/kWh and for the Napocor to sell at the mediator's rate is to burden the Napocor customers, (non-Meralco electricity consumers) with P0.95/kWh that they did not consume.

The Napocor-Meralco dispute actually highlights the policy and regulatory failures on the part of the government, and the imprudent management and questionable self-dealing of the management in Meralco.

The Napocor contracted its independent power producers (IPPs) to cover the demand guaranteed by Meralco in its 10-year contract for the sale of electricity (CSE). The CSE had penal clauses because in the nature of electricity, which cannot be effectively stored in large volumes, supply and demand have to be balanced.

When Meralco under the Lopez management over-contracted its own IPPs, principal of which is a Lopez-owned IPP, this led to an imbalance in supply and demand and distorted the price of electricity.

The second failure was when the ERC allowed Meralco's IPPs to come in at costs grossly distorted. At one time, Meralco was charging its customers the equivalent of P18/kWh for its IPP's cost of power.

The third failure is the Napocor's going into the compromise agreement as proposed by the so-called mediators. The Napocor as a monopoly has the obligation to protect its customers, not "baby" Meralco.

If there should be anybody to lose in the Meralco overcapacity, it should be the Lopez-owned IPPs. But precisely because they are Lopez-owned, the IPPs like San Lorenzo and Sta. Rita, have yielded huge profits to the Lopez Group.

According to the PCIJ, First Private Power saved Benpress and the Lopez group in 2000 a multibillion-peso infusion, which turned the Lopez Group's losses to profitability.

For the three months which ended on March 31, 2002, Benpress reported a 14 percent increase in its revenues to P562 million as equity in net earnings of investees.

The FPHC was the main driver for growth, pumping in a 24 percent gain in income to P597 million on the strength of a 60-percent jump in revenues to P8.2 billion.

Clearly, the Lopezes in Meralco is the monkey on the consumers' back.

—PETE L. ILAGAN,
president,
National Association
of Electricity Consumers for Reforms
Inc., Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Garden
Townhomes, Roxas Boulevard corner
Ortigas Street, Pasay City

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Correct names

OUR municipality, as the capital town of Sarangani Province, is the center of most national offices aside from the provincial and municipal offices. We are proud to say that almost all of these offices are subscribers to the INQUIRER. It is the most wanted national daily in our locality.

In your May 10, 2003 issue, we were mentioned in the column of Rina Jimenez-David which featured one of the health programs implemented. However, allow us to make some corrections on the names printed.

(a) Instead of Mayor Narciso Rasa, Mayor Narciso Ra. Grafilo Jr.

(b) Instead of Provincial Health Officer Dr. Tony Larana, Dr. Antonio Yasaña

—NARCISO RA. GRAFILO JR.
mayor, Province of Sarangani

Discharging his duties his way

THROUGH you, may I thank Conrado de Quiros for kindly agreeing with my denunciation of the ongoing bombing and shelling of so-called terrorist cells allegedly "embedded" in civilian communities in Mindanao as nothing but state-sponsored terrorism. (PDI, 5/22/03)

Let me assure all his readers, however, that contrary to a sharp aside in the same column, I have never parted ways with my conscience as a public servant: not during the parlous Marcos martial law years or the fraudulent election phase of the Ramos administration or the turbulent times of the Estrada impeachment trial. And certainly not now under the scandal-ridden government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In fact, it is conscience that impels me to speak out against wrongdoing no matter what the cost.

And in the evening shadows of my life, it is now too late for me to change the way I discharge my duties as a public servant and that it is by adhering to the rule of law and as my conscience tells me how—even if in the process, I am misunderstood by friends or foes of both.

—SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR.

That raid on Davao children's camp

LAST May 24 at around 4:30 a.m. soldiers of the 73rd Infantry Battalion raided the Kabataan Consortium's children summer camp in Davao City, woke up children at gunpoint, ordered them to put their hands over their heads, and herded them to a secluded area. The raid, according to the military, was done to verify if there were bombs and firearms being kept in the children's camp since alleged terrorists were reported to be around the area. (PDI, 5/26/03)

The 100 children, aged 10-13 years old, are street children, prostituted girls and child laborers who were being given leadership skills and children's rights lectures in the children's camp. What irony that these children, who were being given psychosocial therapy sessions, were harassed by yet another incident that could only add trauma to their abnormal and confused young lives.

Children are "zones of peace." This is according to Art. X, Sec. 22 of RA 7610 ("An Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination, Providing Penalties for its Violation, and for Other Purposes"). According to the article, it is the State's responsibility to promote children as zones of peace. It provides that, "Children shall not be objects of attack and shall be entitled to special respect. They shall be protected from any form of threat, assault, torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment."

Clearly, the children's right of protection has been violated. Having guns pointed at them and being told to put their hands over their heads are far from being given special respect. The children have been made victims of nothing less than state terrorism.

The people are threatened. These punitive actions against terrorists may just be excuses for the government to push people to the wall. Even children are not safe from being victimized by the government's wild campaign against terrorists.

In its almost paranoid focus on terrorism, it has sowed fear among so many. Not only the children in that summer camp have been its victims but also the thousands of families it has displaced due to its military offensives.

In it's aim to "combat" terrorism, it has become a terrorist itself.

—CARLOS C. PADOLINA,
secretary general,
Salinlahi, Alliance for Children's Concerns,
80-A Mapang-akit St.,
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

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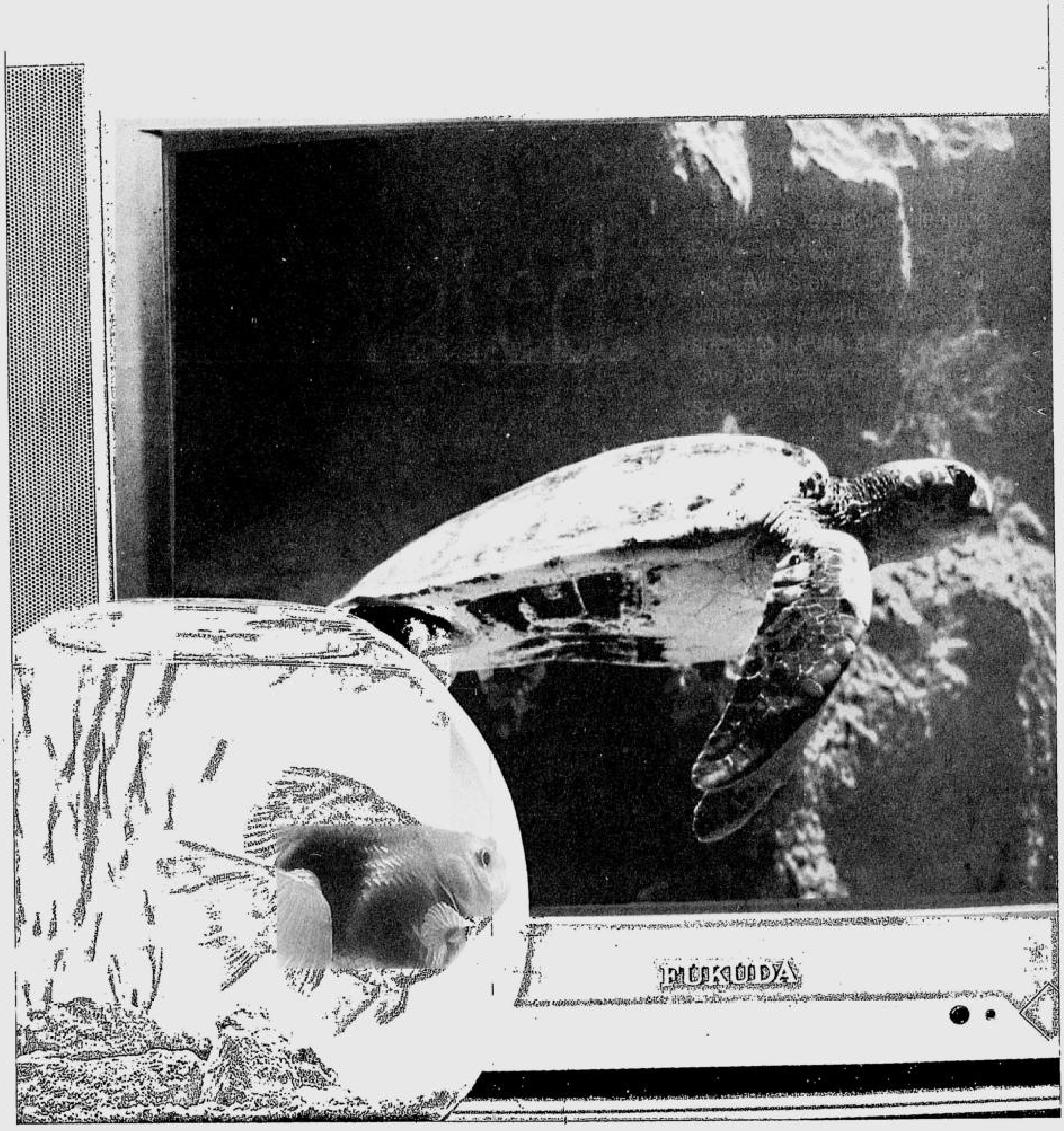


SARS kills 2 more people in Toronto, shuts school

TORONTO—SARS has killed two more people in Toronto and concern about the deadly virus shut down a Toronto-area high school on Wednesday, sending staff and students into quarantine and raising fears it may have spread from hospitals to the broader community.

Health officials in Toronto, however, said they had not found evidence of a spread into the broader community but warned that they expect to see a rise in the number of cases and deaths in coming days.

"Two individuals have passed away with SARS overnight," said Colin D'Cunha, Ontario provincial health chief.

The two women who died were 67 and 88 years old and come from a new outbreak discovered yesterday, D'Cunha said. Their cases—along with that of eight others being treated for the disease—have been traced back to a 96-year-old man who contracted SARS, rather than post-operative pneumonia as first thought, and unknowingly spread it to others.

Twenty-three other people are suspected of having the disease and 50 more are under investigation, D'Cunha said.

The Toronto area is the only place outside Asia where people have died of SARS. There have been 29 deaths to date and there are currently 12 probable and 20 suspect cases.

Doctors said seven patients are in critical condition and about 50 others are being monitored for possible infection.

More than 5,000 people are now in quarantine in the Toronto area after SARS resurfaced six days ago. They include 2,000 students from the high school, sent home by officials who fear they may have been exposed to the disease after one student displayed SARS symptoms, which include fever, aches, shortness of breath and coughing.

Before then, Toronto had thought it had beaten the disease—no new cases were reported from mid-April to mid-May.

Taiwan reported its biggest increase in new cases of the disease in nearly a week.

While agents in southern China were seizing foxes, snakes and other game in a new ban on the wildlife trade that followed evidence of the virus jumping from wild animals to humans, neighboring Hong Kong considered outlawing the marketplace slaughter of chickens.

Wildlife dealers fretted about the traditional Chinese market for exotic species as culinary delicacies.

"Every snake shop will be put out of business," Ho Cheuk-hing said yesterday from his Hong Kong shop She Wong Lam, or "Snake King."

Taiwan on Thursday reported 50 new cases of SARS, its biggest rise in six days. Officials insist that Taiwan's outbreak is declining, and said yesterday's jump included 40 patients who earlier tested negative and were later reclassified as confirmed.

The increase came even as the World Health Organization said Taiwan was making "important strides" in controlling its SARS crisis—which came to a head later on the island than in other affected Asian countries. WHO cited Taiwan's new screening programs and fever clinics.

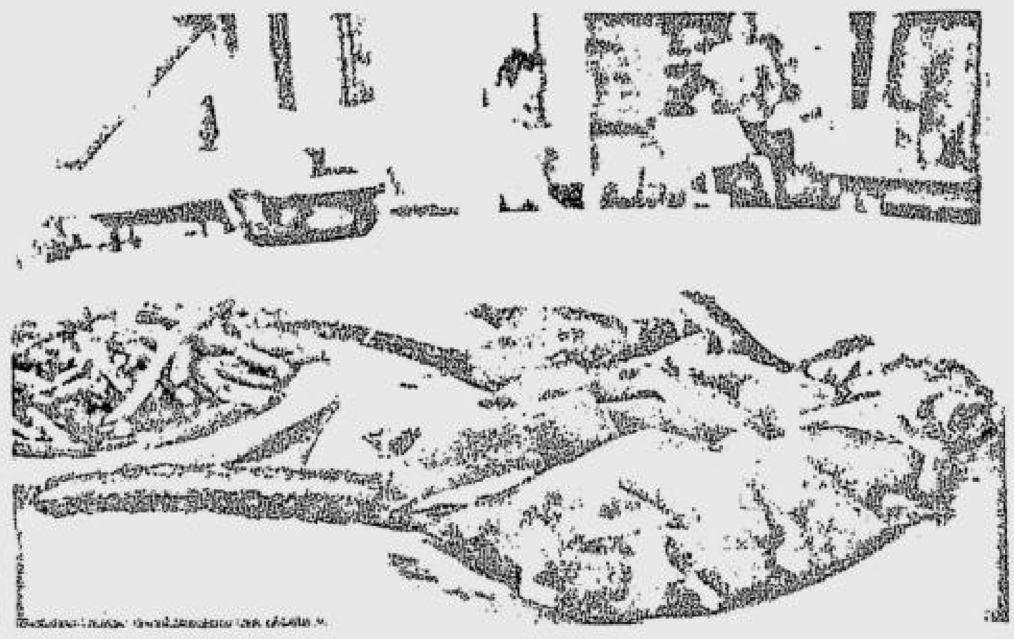
The global death toll Thursday from SARS was at least 748.

Researchers have found evidence of the SARS virus in three species of mammals for sale at a market in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen: civet cats, raccoon dogs and badgers.

Market workers who handled the animals showed evidence of prior infections with SARS, leading to a theory that they contracted the virus from the animals and that it then mutated into a more virulent form before being passed on to other people.

The southern province of Guangdong is famous for exotic dishes that include snakes, civet cats and badgers. Many believe the meat increases virility and enriches the blood.

Reuters, AP, AFP



COOKED field rat meat is served in a restaurant in China's Guangdong May 28. Research showed animals were likely a source of the SARS virus.

REUTERS

Thailand king to get patent for rainmaker

BANGKOK—Thailand's multitalented king, who has several inventions and musical compositions to his credit, will receive a Thai patent for his development of an artificial rainmaking technique, an official said Thursday.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej will be awarded the patent on Monday at his palace in the beach side town of Hua Hin, said Verasak Maiwatana, deputy director of the Intellectual Property Rights Department.

He said the king's "super sandwich" rainmaker involves two aircraft seeding, or spraying chemicals on warm and cold clouds at different altitudes.

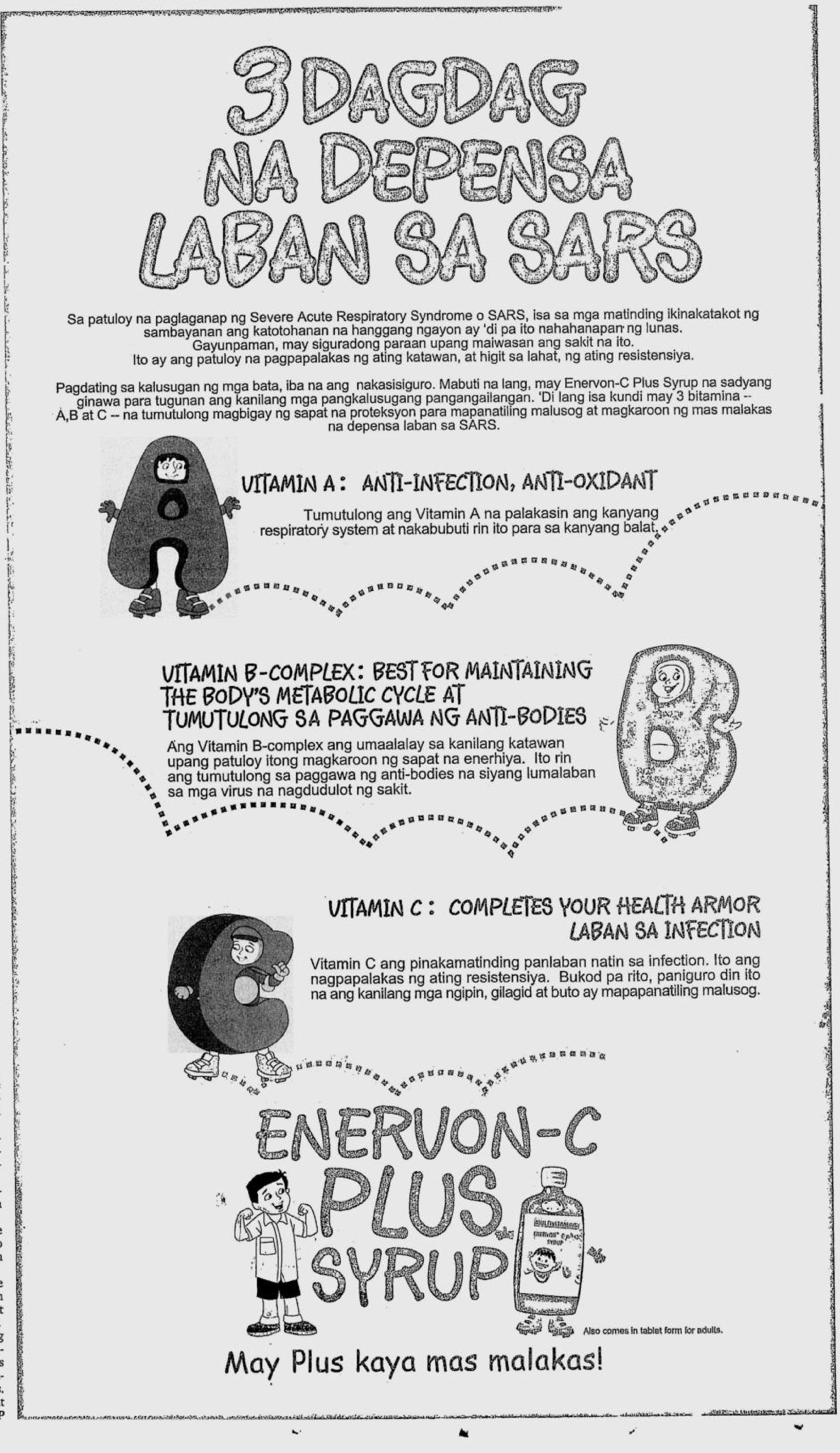
It is a more effective technique than traditional methods as it generates rain over a wider area and can direct rain more precisely, said Verasak.

This will be the fourth Thai patent to be awarded to the 75-year-old king. He also holds patents for a water mill, an oxygen pump and palm oil vehicle fuel.

Bhumibol, who celebrates 57 years on the throne on June 9, is a highly revered figure in Thailand, in part because of his commitment to democracy and the well being of his people.

He has won medals in international yachting regattas and plays half a dozen musical instruments, including the saxophone. Some of his compositions made it into a 1950 Broadway review and others have been produced as albums.

He is also involved in several development and agricultural projects. *AP*



3 DAGDAG NA DEPENSA LABAN SA SARS

Sa patuloy na paglaganap ng Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome o SARS, isa sa mga matinding ikinakatakot ng sambayanan ang katotohanan na hanggang ngayon ay 'di pa ito nahahanapan ng lunas. Gayunpaman, may siguradong paraan upang maiwasan ang sakit na ito. Ito ay ang patuloy na pagpapalakas ng ating katawan, at higit sa lahat, ng ating resistensiya.

Pagdating sa kalusugan ng mga bata, iba na ang nakasisiguro. Mabuti na lang, may Enervon-C Plus Syrup na sadyang ginawa para tugunan ang kanilang mga pangkalusugang pangangailangan. 'Di lang isa kundi may 3 bitamina -- A,B at C -- na tumutulong magbigay ng sapat na proteksyon para mapanatiling malusog at magkaroon ng mas malakas na depensa laban sa SARS.

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VITAMIN C: COMPLETES YOUR HEALTH ARMOR LABAN SA INFECTION

Vitamin C ang pinakamatinding panlaban natin sa infection. Ito ang nagpapalakas ng ating resistensiya. Bukod pa rito, paniguro din ito na ang kanilang mga ngipin, gilagid at buto ay mapapanatiling malusog.

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Saudi, Morocco nab alleged brains of Riyadh bombings

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia and Morocco on Wednesday announced they had arrested the alleged masterminds of bombings earlier this month that killed 77 people and sparked fresh fears al-Qaida had regrouped for more attacks.

Saudi Arabia said five people wanted in the May 12 bombings of three expatriate housing compounds in Riyadh were arrested in the Muslim holy city of Medina.

"We believe that one of them is a main mastermind of the blasts," a Saudi source said without giving further details.

The daily Okaz reported the five were arrested at an Internet cafe and the alleged mastermind was a Saudi who was among 19 men wanted by authorities on terrorism charges after a shootout with police in Riyadh this month.

In Morocco, authorities announced they had captured the "general coordinator" of the May 16 attacks at five locations in Casablanca in which 43 people were killed.

State prosecutor Moulay Abdellah Alaoui Belghiti told state television the suspect was arrested on Monday in the central city of Fes but died while being taken to hospital.

Belghiti identified the dead man by a first name only, Abdelhaq, but said he had also used the alias "Moul Sebbat" (The man with the shoes).

Abdelhaq "admitted he was the main coordinator" of the attacks, Belghiti said, but "suffered chronic heart and liver diseases . . . His health condition did not allow investigators unfortunately to complete all the elements of the investigation."

The two bombings, staged at multiple locations within four days of each other, confirmed some experts' fears that al-Qaida or groups linked to the network were planning attacks to protest the US-led war in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Fresh terror alerts went up around the world with embassies temporarily closing, flights being canceled and US leaders vowing to crack down on those suspected of aiding terrorists.

"We are not convinced this threat is over or (that) it is in any way diminished from what we have seen," US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Jordan told reporters at the US Embassy in Riyadh on Wednesday.

"We don't believe that this is a one-time event. The threat level continues to be elevated this time," he added.

Washington is pressuring Iran to turn over al-Qaida members who the United States says are hiding in that country and may be linked to the Riyadh bombings.

Iran said it has cooperated by arresting and deporting 500 al-Qaida members in the past year and interrogating others. It charged that Washington was not serious about terrorism but used its self-declared war to impose its will on the region. *Reuters*

War on terror has made world more dangerous, Amnesty says

LONDON—Washington's "war on terror" has made the world more dangerous by curbing human rights, undermining international law and shielding governments from scrutiny, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

Releasing its annual report into global human rights abuses in 2002, the London-based watchdog also urged the world to do more to sort out Iraq's problems now the Gulf War is over.

In one of its most critical sideswipes yet at Washington, Amnesty said the bid to stamp out terror in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, had largely backfired.

"It has deepened divisions among people of different faiths and origins, sowing the seeds for more conflict," it said in a statement. "The overwhelming impact of all this is genuine fear across all sectors of society."

In response, the US government said it was committed to international human rights policies and obligations.

"We reject any criticism, any allegations, that our human rights efforts have diminished. Amnesty International's particular charges are incorrect," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher told a daily briefing.

"The war on terrorism has not detracted from our strong and steadfast commitment to human rights and democracy," he added.

Amnesty also said the world was not doing enough to solve post-conflict problems in Afghanistan and Iraq, both bombed and invaded by US-led forces.

Amnesty, which has become the world's biggest and most respected human rights group since it was founded over 40 years ago highlighted the plight of over 600 detainees in a US military camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba who have been hel without charge or trial since the end of th war in Afghanistan.

"While claiming t bring justice to victims in Iraq, the United States has activel sought to undermin the International Cr minal Court, the mechanism for universa justice," it said.

State Departmen spokesperson Boucher responded by saying the United Stat had respected du process, internation humanitarian la and "continued t maintain a syste that respects clear l gal authority . . . Amnesty's 311-pa report was not co cerned solely with th crises triggered by th attacks of Sept. 11.

It said the inten media focus Afghanistan and Ir in 2002 meant hum rights abuses in Ivo Coast, Colombia, B rundi, Chechnya a Nepal had gone larg ly unnoticed. *Reuter*

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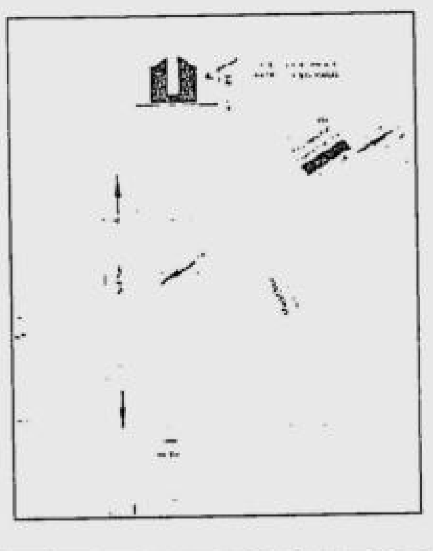

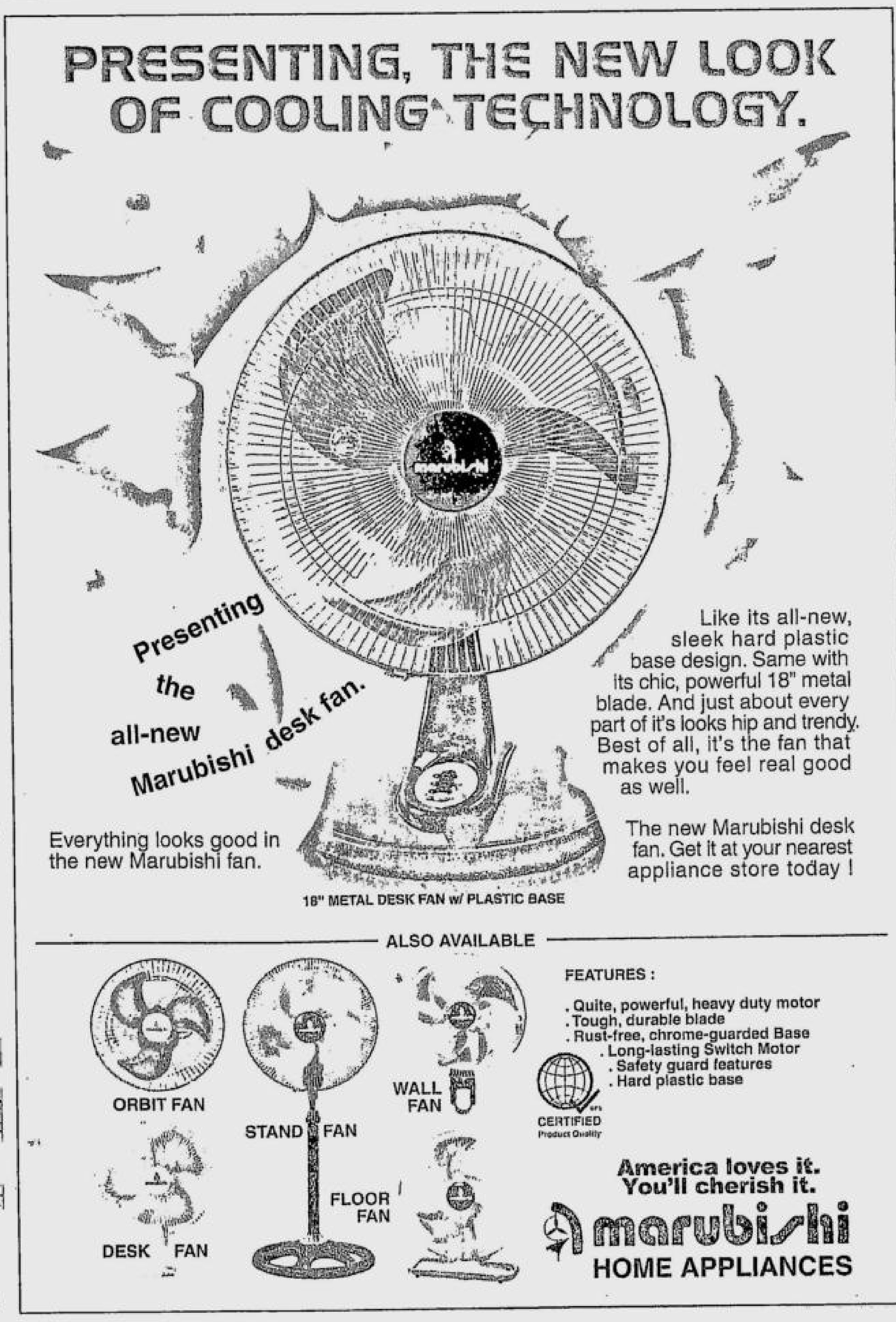

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Ex-British FM urges probe over missing Iraqi weapons

It's clear Saddam was no threat, says Cook

LONDON—Former British foreign secretary Robin Cook called Wednesday for an inquiry after the United States said Iraqi forces may have destroyed the country's alleged weapons of mass destruction before war broke out.

"If (US Defense Secretary) Donald Rumsfeld is now admitting the weapons are not there, the truth is the weapons probably haven't been there for quite a long time," Cook, who resigned from the government over the war, told the BBC.

"I think that has to be investigated. A (parliamentary) select committee is one way of doing it," Cook later told Channel 4 News.

Cook's appeal came as London and Washington appeared to be uttering mixed messages on Iraq's alleged chemical and biological weapons, on which Britain, the United States and Spain pinned their case for war.

Asked why the weapons were not used, Rumsfeld told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York late Tuesday that the Iraqis may have been caught off guard by the speed of the US assault.

"It is also possible that they decided they would destroy them, prior to a conflict. I don't know the answer," he said.

But British Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking to journalists Wednesday as he headed for Kuwait, insisted: "I have said throughout and I just repeat to you, I have absolutely no doubt at all about the existence of weapons of mass destruction."

Blair also confirmed he will be going to Iraq this week, becoming the first Western leader to visit since Saddam Hussein's downfall.

Blair was US President George W. Bush's staunchest ally in the war that began March 20, contributing 45,000 military personnel, plus a naval task force and more than 100 aircraft to the campaign.

Cook told the BBC that the UN's chief weapons inspector Hans Blix should have been allowed to continue with his work in Iraq, and said the British public had been misled.

"It matters immensely because the basis on which the war was sold to the British House of Commons, to the British people, was that Saddam represented a serious threat," he said.

"It is plain he did not have that capacity to threaten us, possibly did not have the capacity to threaten even his neighbors and that is profoundly important," Cook said.

Cook said that those people, himself included, who opposed a second UN resolution providing the basis for military action against Iraq, had been told they were wrong.

"Perhaps we should now admit they were in the right," he said.

"We were told Saddam had weapons ready for use within 45 minutes. It's now 45 days since the war has finished and we have still not found anything," Cook said.

"What, of course, is important about this is that the war was sold on the basis of what was described as a preemptive strike—hit Saddam before he hits us," he said.

"It is now quite clear that Saddam did not have anything with which to hit us in the first place," he concluded.

Blair—speaking at the start of a seven-day marathon diplomatic mission that will also take in Poland, Russia and France—said that speculation should wait until full reports on interviews with Iraqi scientists were published. *AFP*

SHE WADES IN BEAUTY AFP

Szu Yu Chen, Miss Taiwan 2003, poses in swimwear at the Hotel El Panama May 28. She will compete for the title of Miss Universe 2003 during the 52nd annual Miss Universe June 3 in Panama City.

Woman linked to 6 bank heists nabbed

WHITE PLAINS, New York—A woman who allegedly robbed six banks in 48 hours was caught after receiving a ticket for not wearing her seat belt.

Court papers released Wednesday say Pamela Kaichen, 43, admitted telling at least one teller she lost a loved one in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, then demanded money.

Kaichen allegedly robbed a bank May 21 of about $6,190 in Shrub Oak, about 64 km north of New York City, then held up another bank for about $3,100 in Scarsdale, a wealthy suburb 32 km farther south.

The next day, Kaichen allegedly pulled four more bank jobs in Connecticut, stealing an undisclosed amount of cash.

The complaint says Kaichen told a teller at the Bank of New York branch in Shrub Oak that she had "lost a loved one on Sept. 11. Please put everything from your top drawer in this bag. I have a gun in my right hand."

Kaichen was identified after a Danbury, Connecticut, police officer wrote her a ticket last Thursday—the day of the Connecticut robberies—for not wearing a seat belt, said Danbury Police Chief Bob Paquette. *AP*

Mule cloned; cloned horse next?

WASHINGTON—A healthy and energetic mule named Idaho Gem is the first member of the horse family to be cloned, joining the barnyard of cloned animals that now includes sheep, cows, pigs, cats and rodents.

Researchers at the University of Idaho cloned the mule using a cell from a mule fetus and an egg from a horse. Idaho Gem is the genetic brother of Taz, a champion racing mule, and the researchers said the clone mules will also be trained to race.

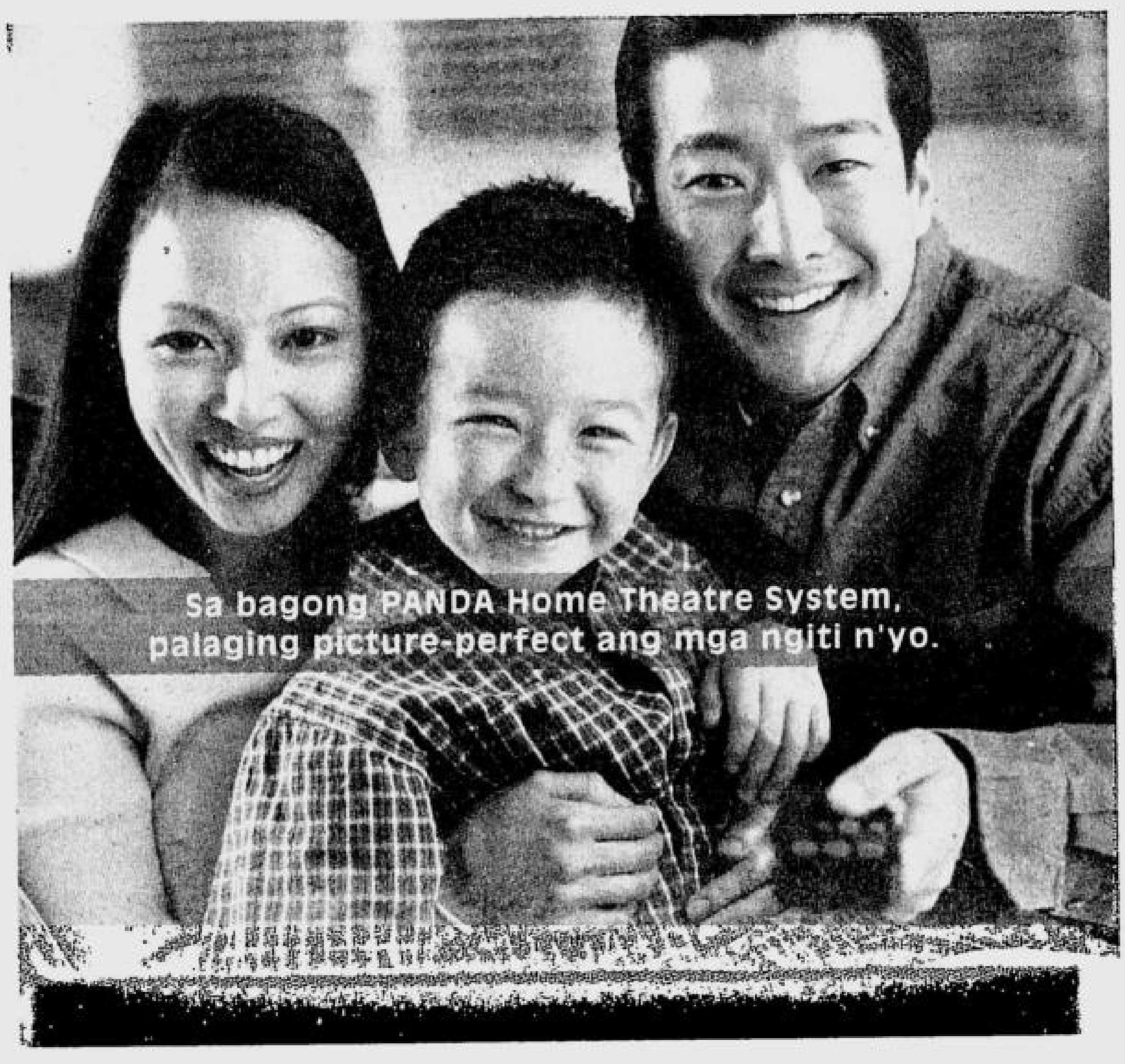
The cloning was particularly unusual because mules—the hybrid from a donkey and a horse—are almost without exception sterile and unable to produce their own young.

"A mule can't do it himself, so we thought we would give it a hand," said Gordon L. Woods of the University of Idaho, the leader of the mule cloning team.

Now, said Woods, he plans to use the same techniques that worked on Idaho Gem to clone horses.

Other researchers, however, said they expect the birth this summer of cloned horses produced by techniques slightly different from that used by the Idaho team.

Mules are bred by mating a male donkey with a female horse. The breeding success is about the same as among horses alone. Mating a male horse with a female donkey produces an animal called a hinnie. Both mules and hinnies can be either male or female, but they are almost invariably sterile. *AP*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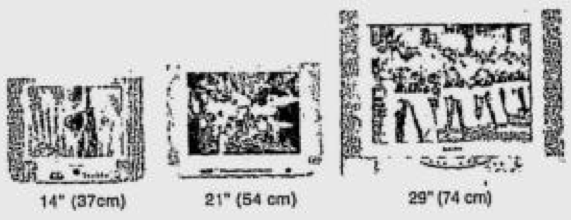

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NPA rebels storm paper firm; 3 killed

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUTUAN CITY—At least three people were killed when communist rebels stormed the compound of Paper Mills Resources Inc. (PRI) in Bislig, Surigao del Sur around 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The attack on PRI, formerly known as Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (Picop) and one of Asia's largest paper producers, came a few hours after Interior Secretary Jose Lina visited Bislig and spoke during the province-wide graduation rites of barangay police.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director, said the New People's Army (NPA) rebels also set on fire the guard administration building before fleeing.

Olario said the fatalities were among the firm's security personnel. Their identities were not available as of presstime last night.

The attack was the second on PRI this year. In March, NPA rebels seized their biggest haul of guns in the province in years when they raided the Picop armory. They took more than 100 assorted firearms.

In Agusan del Norte, NPA rebels executed the village chief of Barangay Cuyago in Jabonga town.

Olario said the body of Florante Ocmen, 62, was found dumped in a ravine near his village on Tuesday.

Ocmen was taken hostage after the rebels stormed the compound of Sergio C. Pascual Construction (SCPC), which was undertaking a road-widening project in the town.

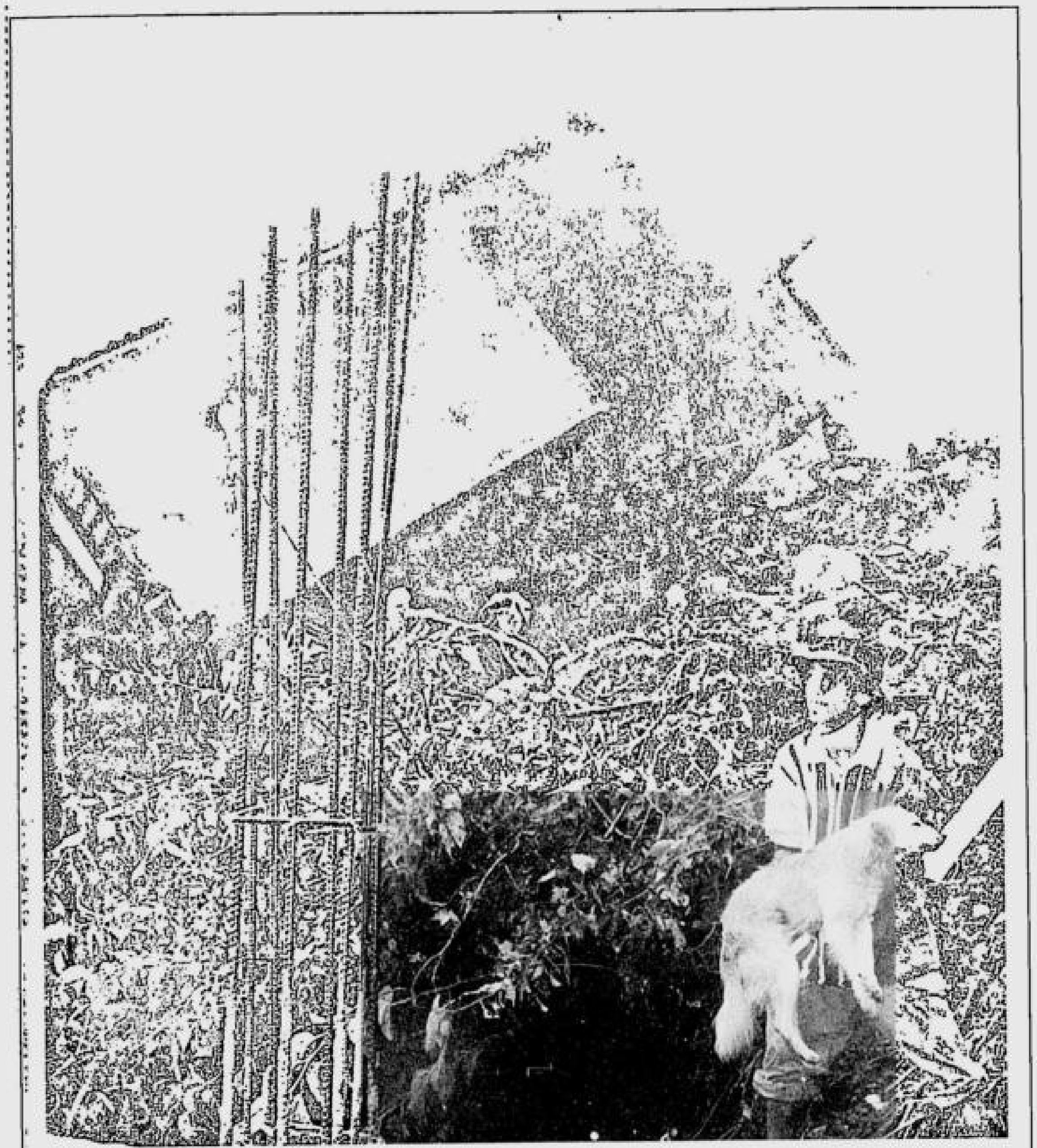
The victim was visiting a son, who works with SCPC, when he was killed. Olario said Ocmen, who was also abducted in January, was a staunch anti-communist.

During the attack, which Olario said was triggered by the company's refusal to pay "revolutionary tax," the rebels, numbering at least 45, burned two payloaders, a prime mover and communication facilities.

Earlier, Jorge Madlos, spokesperson for the Mindanao Commission of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic Front, warned that those who will not pay "revolutionary taxes" in areas they controlled would be punished.

"We have the right to enforce our revolutionary laws. Burning of equipment and other actions are not terrorist acts, but forms of control and authority," Madlos declared.

Olario dismissed as isolated the spate of rebel offensives in Caraga even as he acknowledged that the NPA was slowly gaining strength.



BAGUIO MUDSLIDE REUTER
Jhaylanie Castillo, 19, carries his dog after his two-room house in Baguio City collapsed due to mudslides at the height of storm "Chedeng."

Protection for businessmen offered

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—A top military official has ordered his field commanders to step up efforts in providing protection to businessmen in San Rafael, Bulacan, following reports that the New People's Army has been extorting money from them.

Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, 7th Infantry Division commander, issued the order after receiving a complaint from a Chinese businessman in Bulacan that the rebels have been collecting P30,000 monthly from him.

The businessman, who owns a piggery and a noodle factory, had been warned by the rebels that something bad would happen to his business establishments if he ignored their demands.

Aside from money, the rebels have been demanding rice, canned goods and other food items from the businessman, Braganza said.

In Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in Ilocos, Cagayan and Cordillera regions has become "virtually nonexistent," military officials said.

"We have only 500 rebels in our area. The number is very manageable and is going down," said Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commanding general of the 5th Infantry Division which covers the Ilocos region.

Bagasin said the rebels are concentrating their efforts on recovering the former NPA-influenced villages. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Pinatubo settlers to get land titles

Defensor seeks BIR tax exemption for 54,000 families

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), taking the second major step in securing the tenure of 54,000 families in Mt. Pinatubo resettlements, has pressed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to exempt settlers from paying the capital gains tax.

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor said the request had been with the BIR for almost a year since President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the policy of conveying for free the houses and lots in 16 resettlements in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The policy came five years after the disaster victims campaigned against the usufruct scheme, which required them to pay the houses and lots over a 25-year period.

The victims argued that the government had used state funds and foreign donations to construct the resettlement sites during this emergency stage. They said Republic Act 7637, enacted in 1992 on the sponsorship of Ms Macapagal who was then a senator, clearly spelled out the state assistance to families displaced by the 1991 eruptions of Pinatubo.

"The houses and lots are free. That's the government policy and so they did not actually make capital gains . . . They are victims of calamity and need assistance so we should not require them to pay," Defensor said.

In the first congress of homeowners associations at the Expo Pilipino here on Tuesday, he announced a government-set deadline for the distribution of land titles: Before the end of 2004.

The BIR, according to him, was expecting the settlers to pay a total of P24 million in capital gains tax or six percent of some P400 million in estimated land value.

"*Mukha namang pagbibigyan nila* (It is likely they would give in to the request)," Defensor said.

As the HUDCC lobbies with the BIR, its Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) is busy revalidating the legitimacy of the settlers.

Flor Arrozal, PPMO deputy executive director, said some 18,000 settlers had "problematic" status on their claims to own houses and lots. They occupy units that were not officially awarded to them. This meant that they bought or rented the units from the legitimate awardees, or forcibly occupied the units.

They could also be relatives of the awardees. Under the policy of the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission, only the heads of the households—not their next of kin or even in-laws—could be awarded houses and lots.

Arrozal estimated that only 10,000 would pass the revalidation system. "The rest stand the risk of eviction," she told reporters.

According to her, the revalidation was being done to "stop the floodgates of selling" the houses and the lots.

She said in the President's order on the mode of conveyance, the beneficiaries of land titles are prohibited from selling the property.

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ROUNDUP

Dynamite blast

BAGUIO CITY—A woman was hurt Sunday when two men threw a dynamite stick inside a karaoke bar on Magsaysay Avenue here. Police said the victim, May-Ann Maniled, 26, a waitress, suffered cuts in the left ear and was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. Police said only four customers, including the suspects, were at the bar during the incident.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bus hold-up

BALANGA CITY—Five armed men held up passengers of a Cavite-bound bus on Sunday night. Reports said the robbers took the bus conductor's collection of P7,000 and an undetermined amount of money, cellular phones and jewelry from the 42 passengers. Police said the robbers boarded the bus in Dinalupihan, Bataan. One of them, police said, ordered the driver to proceed to Bataan through the Roman Expressway. The robbers, who were armed with a 9-mm pistol, a .38 cal. revolver, a hand grenade and a knife, alighted in Barangay Bilolo in Orion town.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Criminal bagged

BAGUIO CITY—Police captured the most wanted criminal in Benguet last week. Reports from the Cordillera police office said policemen from La Trinidad town arrested Martin Panaden, 34, who was wanted on rape charges. In Mt. Province, police arrested a 17-year-old boy in Barangay Alab, Bontoc, on rape charges. The suspect was taken to the Youth Rehabilitation Center in Bauang, La Union.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Drug-related crimes up

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay has more inmates now than before because of drug-related offenses, the Philippine Jail Management and Penology in Bicol said. Senior Supt. Wilmore Filopino, PJMP regional director based in Tabaco City, said the ratio of jail personnel to inmates was now 1:33, compared to 1:7 in the last two years. Half of the inmates, he noted, were facing drug-related cases. Filopino attributed the rise in drug-related crimes to the enforcement of Republic Act No. 9165, which denies bail for persons caught with more than 0.1 gram of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Child-friendly city

CALAPAN CITY—Local officials have approved an ordinance establishing a comprehensive children support system in the city. Under the Child Welfare Code of Calapan City, a Child Welfare Council shall be created which will serve as a consultative assembly and regulatory body responsible for planning, programming, assessment and evaluation of existing programs for children. The city council also passed an ordinance providing for child survival development protection, security and participation.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Aggao na Cagayan'

TUGUEGARAO CITY—In observance of the 420th founding anniversary of Cagayan known as the "Aggao na Cagayan," outstanding Cagayano overseas workers will be honored during the weeklong activities on June 23 to 29. The workers will be honored for their contribution to the progress and development of Cagayan and the country, according to Gov. Edgar Lara.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Basilica gets wired

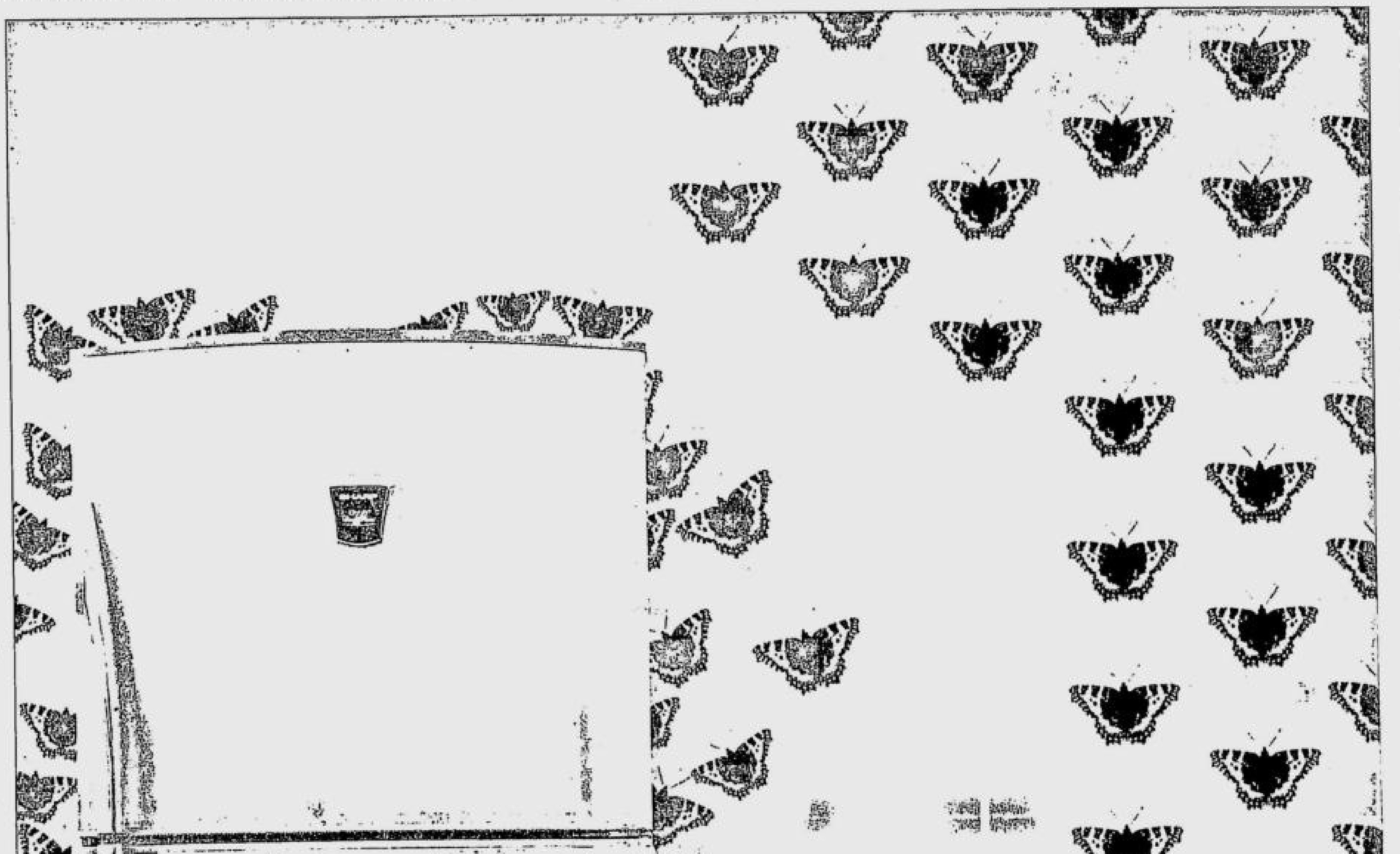
TUGUEGARAO CITY—The diocese of Tuguegarao has harnessed the potentials of modern communication for evangelization by putting up an Internet access at the Basilica of Piat in Piat town. The establishment of the first parochial Internet is part of the preparations for next year's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the image of the Miraculous Virgin of Piat from Portuguese Macao to Piat to pacify the natives who massacred the Spanish settlers who abused them.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cemetery for Muslims

MATI, Davao Oriental—Muslim residents have asked Mayor Francisco Rabat to give them a cemetery for their own use. Panlilio Cambing, member of Mati municipal council, said "the Christian residents already have a cemetery exclusive for them. And we are very glad that Mayor Rabat has responded positively to our request. He said the mayor promised to allocate funds for the purpose. A two-hectare cemetery in the downtown area would be enough, he added.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau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Cito cautions Bt corn critics on protests

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo called on anti-Bt corn advocates to follow the government process and do away with extreme measures like staging a hunger strike.

"Our government is process-driven. We have asked the anti-Bt corn advocates to please submit scientific basis to the Bureau of Plant Industry," Lorenzo, who was the keynote speaker of the 2nd Philippine National Corn Congress held here Tuesday, said.

"Let's not do it through a hunger strike. It's a waste of our time," he said in Filipino.

He stressed that North America, South America and Europe accepted genetically engineered products.

On Tuesday, about 50 protesters from Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon staged a rally in front of the Grand Caprice Restaurant here where stakeholders of the corn industry opened the 2nd Philippine National Corn Congress.

The protesters demanded the ouster of Lorenzo and called for a nationwide boycott on *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn and genetically modified products, especially those produced by Monsanto Corp.

Cong Corrales, co-convenor of the Alyansa ng Mamamayan laban sa GMO, said Lorenzo failed the farmers of Northern Mindanao by "not protecting us from this dangerous technology."

"We demand that he resign because instead of advocating the interests of the small farmers, he is actively colluding with these transnational corporation," he added.

Bt-corn has been approved for commercialization in the Philippines. *Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ilocos Norte town yields first Bt corn trial harvest

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—At least five hectares of farmland have yielded the first genetically modified corn in Dingras town, Ilocos Norte's rice granary.

The office of the provincial agriculturist (Opag) identified the village of San Marcelino in Dingras as the site of the field-testing in preparation for the Bt corn's commercialization in the province.

Francisco Pilar, provincial agriculturist, said his office would conduct a separate field-testing of four more hectares planted with Bt corn in the village of Pait in Vintar town.

A total of nine bags of Bt corn seeds, provided by the US-based firm Monsanto, were planted in the two towns in February alongside non-genetically engineered corn crops.

"The Bt corn that we have planted are intended for feeds-processing only. We assure farmers and consumers alike that these are not intended directly for human consumption," Pilar told the INQUIRER.

Cesar Derrada, municipal agriculturist in Dingras, said farmers initially declined the offer to plant Bt corn because it would have coincided with the rice-cropping period.

Derrada said he was aware of the negative impact being raised by environmentalists against the GMOs but that he could not object with the field trials sponsored by the provincial government.

"This will be our first and last Bt corn demo. We will no longer accept succeeding trials," he said.

The Opag is promoting the modified crop, noting the province's low production of yellow corn, the main ingredient of livestock feeds.

Farmers produced 28,096 metric tons of yellow corn last year, but the yield was not enough to meet the demand for feeds processing, it said.

The province imports close to 88,000 kg of livestock feeds from Bulacan, Pangasinan and Batangas.

Ilocos Norte grows corn varieties mainly for the cornick (chichacorn) industry and feeds production.

After the harvest, the Opag intends to sell the Bt corn crop to feed mill factories outside of Ilocos Norte.

The provincial government has its own feed mill in Marcos town whose management and operation were recently acquired from the national government.

Pilar said the feed mill would have been tapped for feeds production had the facility been operational.

The P30-million facility was one of the flagship projects awarded in 2000 by former President Joseph Estrada. But three years later, the feed mill plant has yet to become operational because of lack of funding.

Pilar said they adopted the Bt corn for field trials after initial testing by the Mariano Marcos State University of the genetically modified crop produced good results.

"Until now, you can see the neighboring field (planted to non-GMO corn) that it has suffered from the corn borer. While the Bt corn has full ears even in the absence of pesticides," Pilar said.

It was through university researchers that the Opag was able to source Bt corn seeds from Monsanto.

Church thieves strike again in Cebu

CEBU CITY—Unidentified persons have stolen the antique wooden head of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary inside the San Isidro Parish church in San Fernando town, 29 km south of here.

Senior Supt. Maximo Calimlim, provincial police director, ordered an investigation into the latest church theft, the 20th incident in their records since April last year.

He directed Supt. Teodoro Manuel, chief of the police intelligence and investigation division, to identify and capture the thieves.

Manuel, in turn, directed the San Fernando police chief, Insp. Feliciano Canedo, to coordinate with parishioners in the investigation.

Luz Baricuatro, secretary of San Fernando parish priest Leo Cabahug, said the wooden head of the Blessed Virgin was taken between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. after the first Mass on May 19.

She said the image was placed inside the church because of the Flores de Mayo procession. It was put in a carriage near the pulpit.

Angeling Caballero noticed that the head was gone while she was cleaning the church. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Gov't troops, MILF rebels clash in Tagum City

DAVAO CITY—Government troops on Wednesday recovered bomb-making materials and firearms from several houses in Barangay Madaum, Tagum City.

The houses were believed to have been occupied by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels.

The recovery came after soldiers belonging to the 72nd Infantry Battalion, members of Task Force Davao and Tagum policemen engaged MILF rebels in an hour-long gunfight starting at 4 a.m.

Col. Gerardo Barrientos, battalion commander, said they were about to raid a village in Madaum after receiving reports on the presence of more than 50 heavily armed men believed to be MILF rebels in the area.

As the government troops were approaching the village, they were met with a volley of gunfire, Barrientos said.

The rebels later retreated.

Barrientos said one MILF member, identified as Imbran Salahudin, was arrested. The rebel is now in the custody of the 72nd IB, he said.

Recovered from the battle scene were bomb ingredients, like ammonium nitrate, detonating cord and a remote control device, an M-16 rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun and a 9-mm pistol. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WAPILE

Countdown for Justice

IT IS exactly 382 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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3. The Raffle Promo will run from 1 March 2003 to 30 June 2003, nationwide. There will be three (3) monthly draws and one (1) grand draw. Period covered, deadline of entries (until store's closing hours) submission and draw dates are as follows:

Period Covered	Deadline of Submission of Entries	Raffle Draw Dates
1st Monthly Draw: Mar. 1–31	31 March	14 Apr. 2003, 3pm
2nd Monthly Draw: Apr. 1–30	30 April	14 May 2003, 3pm
3rd Monthly Draw: May 1–31	31 May	13 June 2003, 3pm
Grand Draw: Mar. 1–June 30	30 June	14 July 2003, 3pm

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Monthly Draws
  a. Php 30,000 worth Living Room Showcase (1 each for Luzon and Vismin)
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     Luxuriant Sofa Set (3-seater, 2-seater, 1-seater), Divan, Center table, TV Rack
  b. Nokia 3510 (5 units each for Luzon and Vismin)

4. All raffle prizes are nontransferable, tax-free and non convertible to cash.

5. A participant can win only once in each draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.

6. Monthly draws for both Luzon and Vismin will be held separately and simultaneously, with the same number of winners. Non-winning raffle entries for the month still have a chance to qualify for all the succeeding draws.

7. For Luzon entries, monthly draws will be held at the MATIMCO, INC. SALES OFFICE, 62 Old Samson Rd, Balintawak, QC at 3:00 pm. For VisMin entries, monthly draws will be held at the MATIMCO INC. HEAD OFFICE, Hi-way Estancia, Mandaue City, Cebu at 3:00 pm. The winning raffle stubs will be drawn using tambiolos of Matimco in the presence of a DTI representative.

8. The Grand Raffle draw for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be held at the MATIMCO INC. SALES OFFICE, 62 Old Samson Rd, Balintawak, Q.C. on July 14, 2003 at 3PM, in the presence of a DTI representative.

9. Winners shall be notified through registered mail.

10. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from notification. Prizes will be forfeited after claim period has lapsed w/ prior DTI approval. To claim the prize, just present any valid ID's, the registered mail, and the claim stub to the following Matimco, Inc. Sales Offices:
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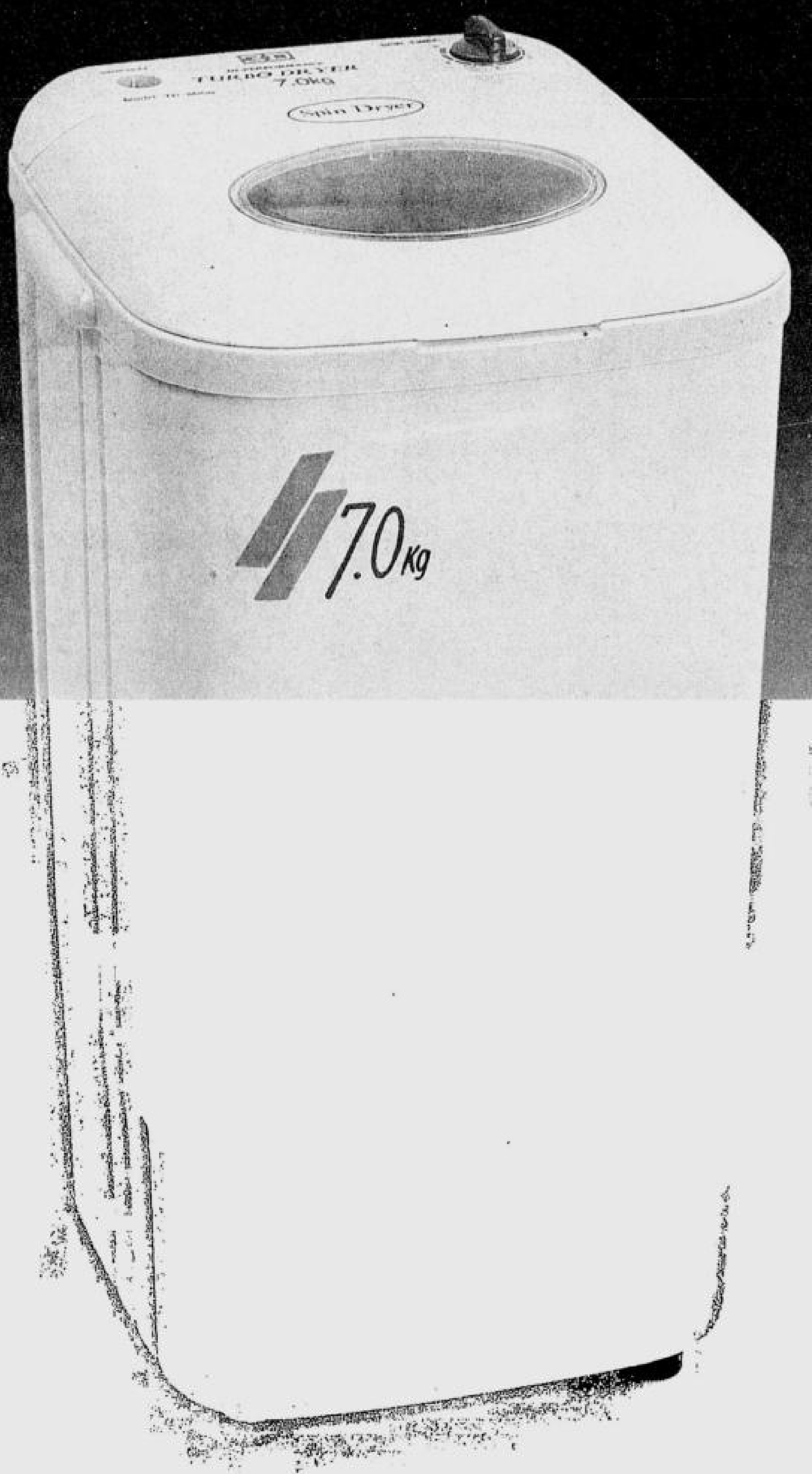

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After truce offer, MILF attacks Army

From page A1

June 2 to "give ample time for their field commanders to comply with the order."

Kabalu said the five villagers killed were actually militiamen and were considered combatants. He said two rebels and several soldiers were also killed.

"If there were houses burned, that's because they are situated beside the detachment and are owned by soldiers or (militiamen)," he said.

GMA conditions

In her statement, the President said there were "concrete and straightforward ways for the MILF to show sincerity" in its offer of peace.

"One is a written document under the signature of its (MILF) Central Committee, unequivocally and unambiguously renouncing terrorism as a means to achieve its ends, with a similar renunciation of the al- Qaida, Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf," Ms Macapagal said.'

"Second is to reveal where its units are located so that we can see clearly that these units are not in any way merged or coalesced with any terrorist or criminal groups that are outside the purview of the peace process," she added.

"Third, the MILF must yield the perpetrators of the massacres of Siocon and Maigo so that they could be brought to justice."

Ms Macpagal was referring to the MILF raids in Maigo, Lanao del Norte, and Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, that left scores of civilian casualties. Before embarking on her trip to the United States, she ordered the military on May 17 to crack down on rebels responsible for the two attacks.

On Wednesday, the President said the government was willing to resume talks with the MILF and offer a permanent ceasefire leading to a peace agreement under certain conditions.

In declaring a 10-day ceasefire, the MILF demanded that government troops pull out from captured rebel camps and recall arrest warrants and murder charges against MILF leaders suspected in the recent bombings.

On Thursday, Kabalu said Ms Macapagal's demand for the rebels to renounce terrorism was "impossible." "We cannot renounce something we are not engaged in," he said.

Kabalu also said the MILF could not turn over fighters involved in "legitimate encounters" with the military.

Peace talks

Despite the seemingly irreconcilable differences between Ms Macapagal and the MILF, Vice President Teofisto Guingona urged both sides to step up their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem.

"We need further confidence-building measures from both sides to bring back more lasting peace and a sense of normalcy to the communities that have been caught in the crossfire of the conflict," he added.

The United States on Thursday also welcomed the 10-day truce offered by the MILF and expressed hope it would eventually lead to a resolution of a 25-year insurgency that has ravaged Mindanao.

"It looks as if both sides are interested in getting back to serious talks," US ambassador Francis Ricciardone told dzBB radio, noting that US President George W. Bush had already promised Ms Macapagal help to "underwrite peace" in Mindanao.

He said the peace overture by the MILF was "a very exciting development."

The MILF has been waging a rebellion in Mindanao since 1978 in a bid to create an independent Islamic state.

Bush last week promoted the Philippines to full military ally in the region and vowed to pour $356 million security-related assistance into the country to help combat terrorism. *Reports by Edwin O. Fernandez, Julie S. Alipala, and Aquiles Z. Zonio/PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora in Manila; AP and AFP*

Politics dirtier . . .

From page A1

porters last Wednesday that Cuneta was indeed at his residence in White Plains on Monday. Caught off guard by the reporters' inquiries, he refused to give any details.

"No comment," he cut reporters short.

Cuneta also reacted to the persistent rumor that Pangilinan had a girlfriend in the Senate, expressing surprise that the rumor this time around was steaming out of the Senate, and not from within show biz circles.

"I can only think of politics," Cuneta said. "It's dirtier than show biz."

Won't take it sitting down

"Those people are rehashing an old issue," Cuneta said. "There's no issue to begin with. If there's truth to that rumor, I'm not going to take it sitting down.

"Since I was doing 'Magkapatid' with Judy Ann Santos last year, there was already that talk about Kiko. Now, they're just making it big and I'm surprised there are already names this time."

Cuneta denied to the INQUIRER that she had left the Pangilinans' Wack-Wack house because she was having problems with her husband. However, she admitted that she and her 18-year-old daughter, KC Concepcion, were in the Sotto residence last Monday.

Girls' Monday

"We have this girls' Monday thing with me, KC and my cousins Apples, Lala and Ciara (Sotto's children)," Cuneta said. "We haven't done it for a long time. I came from a remote taping of my show, 'Sharon' in Laguna that day, then I decided to stay with them, so we could bond again. That was the only reason."

Cuneta said she also needed a break, so she stayed in her aunt's house that night.

Cuneta explained she is very close to her aunt Helen, the only sister of her mother Elaine Gamboa-Cuneta. The actress calls Gamboa "Mama" or "Mads."

Gamboa acts as the megastar's second mother and has treated Cuneta like her own daughter since the popular TV-movie star was a child.

"Mama Helen's kids and I grew up like sisters and one brother, not cousins," Cuneta said. "I love them dearly. Their house is my hangout with my daughters."

No day off

"I haven't had a day off since January," she said. "I've been shooting, taping and recording. Even during Holy Week, I was in the hospital at Cardinal Santos to take care of my daughter Frankie, who got sick with bronchial asthma."

Frankie is Cuneta's 2-year-old daughter with Pangilinan. KC is the actress' daughter with actor Gabby Concepcion, who is now based in the United States.

In 2001, before Pangilinan started his senatorial campaign, it was reported that Cuneta and Gamboa were at odds due to the opposing political affiliations of their respective husbands.

Sotto was the campaign manager of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM). Pangilinan ran under the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC).

But Gamboa, in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, said politics will never destroy her relationship with the megastar.

Sotto and Gamboa stood as principal sponsors in the civil wedding of Cuneta and Pangilinan on April 28,1996 at the Cuneta residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Four bodies found near collision site

From page A1

cemetery yesterday afternoon based on the recommendation of the city health department, which noted that the corpse was already in an advanced stage of decomposition.

Three more bodies—all female—were discovered by fishermen in the waters between Corregidor and Limbones Islands before noon yesterday, according to the Philippine Coast Guard Action Center. It had yet to be confirmed if the corpses were those of passengers of the ill-fated boat.

The first was that of a woman wearing a red T-shirt and black pants. She was recovered north of Sangley Point in Cavite City at around 2 p.m.

The two others were recovered by the Coast Guard detachment in the waters off Cavite. One was recovered between El Fraile and Ternate while the other was recovered near the shores of Hulugan, Tanza, Cavite.

All three bodies, which were in advanced stages of decomposition, were taken to the Ambassador Funeral Homes in Caloocan City.

They could not be considered passengers of the San Nicolas as they have not been identified.

The Coast Guard is still in the process of confirming the identity of the dead woman found in a river in Navotas on Wednesday. The woman was wearing a life vest marked MV San Nicolas and was tied to a yellow inflatable life boat.

Search and retrieval operations were still being conducted by the crew of the BRP Edsa Dos and BRP Ilocos Norte yesterday afternoon.

Senate hearing

At a Senate hearing, the Coast Guard said it was not capable of preventing accidents such as the collision between the San Nicolas and Super Ferry 12 because it had no system in place that will not only monitor traffic of vessels in the country's waters but also communicate with them in times of distress.

Vice Admiral Reuben Lista, Coast Guard commandant, told senators that the deadly collision off Corregidor waters could have been prevented if his office were operating such a system.

This system was covered by several projects between the Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation and Communication. It included a vessel management system, a mandatory reporting scheme, and the Marine Communication Office. It also involved the establishment of sea lanes and use of a global marine distress signal system (GMDSS).

Lista said this kind of system could only be used "inter-operability," or if every system was working.

"If these were operationalized by the Coast Guard 24 hours, that May 24 incident would not have happened," Lista said at the hearing of the Senate committee on public services.

Stalled projects

Lista told the senators that the system was not operating because the implementation of some of the projects had been stalled.

He cited the case of the rotting communication equipment worth P1.2 billion that the DOTC purchased in the 1990s. The equipment would have made up the GMDSS. The GMDSS is a requirement of the International Maritime Organization for all countries, according to Lista and Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez..

Valdez said the GMDSS project did not take off because of contractual problems with the French company that supplied the communication equipment.

Valdez said that the contract was signed during the term of then President Fidel Ramos.

Lista said that he would need P15 million to upgrade to current standards the equipment in the Marine Communication Office. He said Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza had committed to help the Coast Guard in this project.

"If we're serious in maritime safety, I think it's about time that you put political will. Let's operationalize this and not blame the Coast Guard again if ships collide say in Corregidor, in Cebu or in the Mindoro Straits," Lista told the senators.

Lista told the INQUIRER later that the non-operationalization of the system had left the Coast Guard "with no eyes and ears to monitor traffic and communicate with these vessels."

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Dog saves family from avalanche

From page A1

Construction workers found the 30-inch, 150-kilogram bomb and turned it over to the police.

Chedeng has roared out after four days of heavy rains and flooding, leaving 25 people dead and 8,357 displaced. All storm signals have been lowered, but people living near mountains or in low-lying areas were advised "to remain alert against possible occurrence of landslides and flash floods."

At least seven people have been injured since the storm hit Luzon on Sunday, the National Disaster Coordinating Council reported.

Damage to crops and infrastructure was estimated at more than P60 million.

On Wednesday, the MV Regina capsized shortly after leaving Pilar, Sorsogon, for Masbate City. A crew member identified as Henry Belarmino drowned and all 40 passengers were rescued, according to Lt. Cmdr. Jose William Isaga of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The other new fatalities added to the 18 reported Wednesday were Joseph Bautista, 18, who was electrocuted in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan; Gerald Aquino of San Fabian, Pangasinan; Michael Jomar Selda, 11, of Caloocan; Almira Marquez, one year and five months, of Valenzuela; and mother and daughter Cinderella and Rosell Blancaflor, 22 and 50, of Oton, Iloilo. The last five died of drowning.

The body of baby Almira Marquez was found around noon yesterday floating in knee-deep waters inside the living room of the family home, according to Bernie Bautista, officer in charge of Valenzuela's Social Welfare and Development Office.

Marquez's grandmother said she last saw the child Wednesday night sleeping soundly beside her mother as the rains poured outside.

Surprise visit

In a surprise visit to Dagupan City yesterday afternoon, President Macapagal-Arroyo assured residents that the Binga and San Roque Dams did not cause the widespread flooding in Pangasinan but saved the towns along the Agno River from further destruction.

She said that the "heavy and unusual rains" flooded 371 villages in 28 towns and cities in the province, and that the two dams spilled excess water into the Agno River.

Dagupan was one of the worst hit by Chedeng and was declared a calamity area Wednesday night.

Ms Macapagal, who presided over a ceremonial inauguration of the San Roque multipurpose dam in Malacañang shortly after visiting the cities of Urdaneta and Dagupan, said the Bued-Cayanga River traversing eastern and central Pangasinan towns overflowed and caused the flooding in the province.

She said the construction of a dike along the Cayanga River had started through a $200-million loan from China. "Hopefully, the dike will protect the 4th and 3rd districts the way San Roque (dam) saved the Agno River," she told Dagupan officials.

She also announced that the Department of Agriculture would provide bangus and tilapia fingerlings to Pangasinan fish farmers.

During her visit, the President distributed relief goods to flood victims in Urdaneta and Dagupan.

Six fishermen reported missing Tuesday have been rescued in the sea between Zambales and Pangasinan. Four others remained missing.

Lt. Allen Dalangin, Coast Guard station commander, identified those rescued as Gualberto Mendoza, Ruel Fernandez and Richard Batuhan, all of Infanta, Pangasinan; and Angelito Lebios, Rey Positas and Ruben Marcha.

The body of another fisherman, identified as Melvin Navarro, was found floating in the bay area in Barangay Naulo in Sta. Cruz.

The number of flood-affected persons in Central Luzon rose to 147,915 as floods hit 190 villages in 22 towns, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the region said.

Bulacan was the hardest hit with 104,080 victims. Reports said 3,373 people, mostly from San Jose City in Nueva Ecija, were moved to evacuation centers.

In Zambales, 10 families were left homeless and 124 houses were damaged.

Two bodies

In Iloilo, Insp. Bonifacio Capanas, police chief of Oton town, said Cinderella Blancaflor and her daughter Rosell were crossing a river Tuesday night in their Barangay Sambalodan when they were swept away by the raging waters.

Their bodies were separately discovered by the riverbanks—Rosell's on Wednesday afternoon and her mother's yesterday morning.

The Office of Civil Defense said a man identified as Noli Agustin was injured on Wednesday when he was hit by a falling tree in Barangay Bakhaw in Mandurriao District. He was taken to the Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City for treatment.

The number of affected barangays in Iloilo city and province has risen to 151 from 126. Chedeng affected 163,431 persons, destroyed 98 houses and damaged 238 others, according to the OCD report.

At least 302 families, mostly in Iloilo province, were still in evacuation centers as of noon yesterday.

Damage to agriculture was estimated to reach P203,000, and damage to infrastructure, P1.2 million.

The Iloilo City Council on Wednesday declared the city a calamity area to allow the release of funds for assistance to flood victims.

The floods affected 119,000 persons in 73 of the city's 180 barangays. Twenty-four houses were destroyed and another 94 damaged, according to the OCD report. *Reports from Frank Cimatu and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Martin P. Marfil, Tina Santos and Jerome Aning in Manila; and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0857 Series of 2003

Gross Domestic Product and Gross National Product by Industrial Origin(1st quarter 2003, at constant 1985 prices)

Industry	*In Million Pesos*	*Growth Rate (%)*
Agriculture, fishery, forestry	53,014	2.9
Industry sector	84,648	4.0
Service sector	117,047	5.6
Gross Domestic Product	254,709	4.5
Gross National Product	276,561	5.6

4.5% GDP growth 'a pleasant surprise'

From page A1

DBS Bank economist Chee Seng Wong said the country's first quarter performance was "stronger than what I had expected but the momentum is slowing."

He cited the effects of the US-led war on Iraq, the global economic slowdown and continuing problems for the local agriculture sector. He warned that the country could suffer a very bad second quarter. "We don't think the global situation will improve," he said.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri credited the growth largely to President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of "focusing on the micro-economy and the domestic sources of growth" in the face of slowing global demand for exports.

The gross national product (GNP) posted a better-than-expected 5.6-percent growth, up from 4.3 percent in the same period last year, exceeding the 4.3- to 4.8-percent forecast.

GNP includes net factor income from abroad like remittances by overseas Filipino workers. Net factor income from abroad posted a remarkable 21-percent growth, or almost double last year's 10.2 percent.

"The GNP and the GDP figures, the surge in domestic demand and the sound fiscal performance showed that we are succeeding in strengthening the economic environment in the Philippines," Ms Macapagal said in a telephone message during yesterday's Report on the Performance of the Philippine Economy held at the National Statistical Coordination Board.

Neri said growth was broad-based with the services sector rising 5.6 percent from last year's 4.8 percent, followed by the industrial sector with 4 percent, up from last year's 2.1 percent. The agriculture sector lagged with 2.9-percent growth, down from last year's 4.8 percent.

Neri said the Middle East war and the conflict in Mindanao problem had a minimal impact on the economy. "Without the war and the Mindanao problem, our economy could have grown more," he said.

High domestic demand

Domestic demand was the main driver, giving the government confidence it would achieve its full-year GDP growth target of between 4.2 and 5.2 percent, a GNP growth of 4.5 to 5.4 percent, the economic planning secretary said.

"We will continue to pursue policies that have worked well for the economy, especially those that will raise productivity and ensure macro-economic stability," Neri said at the press conference.

He noted that private consumption grew 4.9 percent, the highest since 1998, amid low inflation and the growing variety of consumer goods brought about by the government's trade liberalization program.

Elena Ponceca, Unicapital Securities research head, said she expected higher growth rate because the country's manufacturing output had been hitting a high capacity utilization rate. In March, the utilization rate rose to 78.5 percent, the highest since December 2001.

"When the manufacturing sector is hitting a high rate, it means firms are expanding their operations and investments are coming in," Ponceca said.

She said the GDP growth was encouraging for the private sector, particularly for the stock market. "It (first-quarter growth) should actually influence positive sentiments for foreign investors, who are the prime movers of the stock market," Ponceca said.

Stock exchange

Sure enough, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 1.78 percent higher yesterday due to "a combination of bargain-hunting and the high GDP growth.

Pernia said the 10.2-percent growth in expenditures for durable equipment was a sign that investor confidence had improved, but he added that the government had more room for improvement.

While private sector expenditure increased, government expenditure, particularly for construction, shrank 0.5-percent growth.

Neri said this was due to the government's decision to reduce the budget deficit. The budget deficit for the first four months of the year was recorded at P65.46 billion, lower than the P67-billion ceiling. Keeping the deficit below the ceiling was attributed mainly to the government's increased revenue collection.

Pernia said the negative expenditure growth could indicate an improved fiscal performance by the government but would adversely affect some sectors like infrastructure.

"The obvious area to improve on is tax revenue administration. It is better to increase revenue than to reduce expenditure in trying to solve the deficit problem," Pernia said.

Ponceca said tight spending showed improvements in the government's fiscal discipline. "Over the last few months, the country also showed improvements in the revenue side, and together with tight spending it showed fiscal discipline on the part of the government," she said.

Pernia said the country should improve on areas concerning governance and labor if it wanted a bigger economic growth.

"The problem of corruption is still prevalent and the cost of labor in the country is too high, making it uncompetitive compared with those of our neighboring countries. And the problem on the high cost of labor is more about the stagnant productivity of labor than it is about high wages," the ADB economist said.

With a report from AFP

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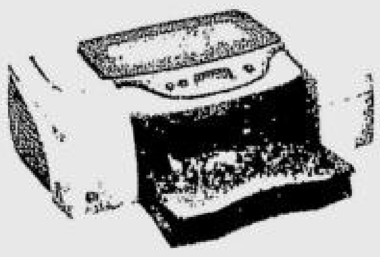

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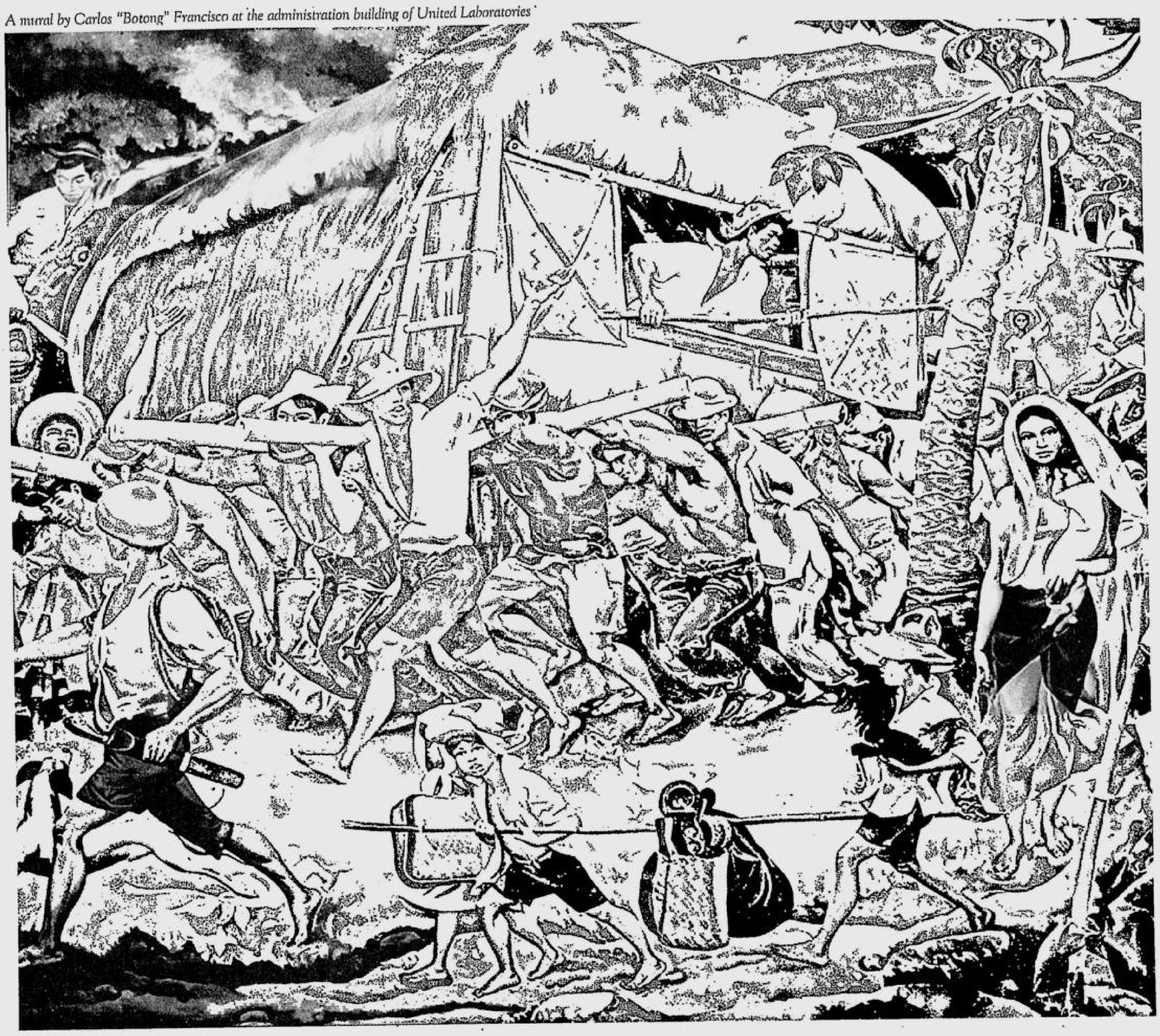

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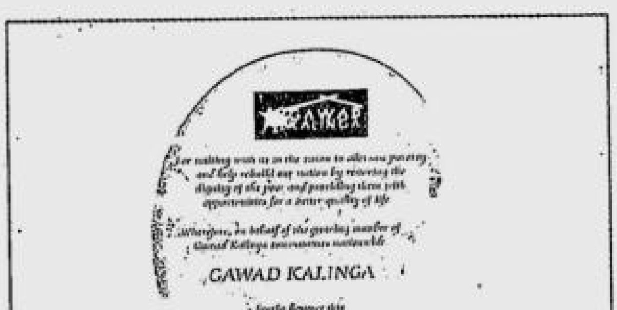
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MMDA told: Metro needs more trees, not fast lanes

By Gerald G. Lacuarta, Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila needs more trees, not fast lanes.

This is what environmentalists and residents of Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City told the Metro Manila Development Authority in a last-ditch effort to stop the agency's plan to uproot trees on the avenue to make way for the widening of the road.

Even the senators got into the act, drafting a Senate resolution seeking to immediately stop the MMDA from felling trees in the metropolis.

In his privileged speech, opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto III has assailed the MMDA for cutting down trees in a 12-hectare woodland property of the Government Service Insurance System in Barrio Ugong, Pasig City that the agency leases as an impounding area.

"The environment is bleeding because of the cutting of trees. We should stop the bleeding," Sotto urged his colleagues during interpellation of his speech.

Senators Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo, Loren Legarda, Noli de Castro and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. stood up to show their support.

But MMDA chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said he is willing to go to the Senate to defend his agency.

"I'll be very glad to explain to the good senator the programs of the MMDA so he may reconsider his stand," he said.

"What we're doing is engineering work that is necessary," he told the INQUIRER.

The environmentalists, led by Leonarda Camacho and Ester Perez de Tagle—both outspoken greening and recycling advocates—also appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the suspension of the road widening project of the MMDA on Katipunan Avenue.

"Studies have shown that widening roads does not solve traffic problems in the long term," Camacho said during a news conference in a restaurant on Katipunan Avenue.

She said the MMDA's plan to remove the islands on Katipunan would turn the school zone into a highway and endanger the lives of students and residents in the area.

Ateneo De Manila University, Miriam College, parts of the University of the Philippines and a number of upper class villages, including La Vista Subdivision where the President lives, are located along Katipunan Avenue.

De Tagle, founder of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap), said the MMDA violated the Local Government Code when it implemented a project without consultations with the affected communities.

But Fernando said there was no need to consult the residents because the agency is dealing with improvements on a highway and is empowered to do what it could to ease traffic congestion.

The MMDA has started destroying the concrete structures in the islands, but has yet to ball any trees.

But the environmentalists warned that old trees would be killed by balling machines, and only small ones would survive the method.

4 kidnap-for-ransom gang members held

By TJ Burgonio

"MAYBE they can run, but they can't hide."

So said Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday as he announced the arrest of four alleged members of a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Ebdane said three of the suspects—Primo Arena, Antonio Tan and Benjamin Dy—had been arrested before on kidnapping charges but escaped from jail in February.

Since their escape, the three, together with several others, had snatched three persons, the last being shoemaker Danilo Tiu on May 23 in his store in Marikina City.

Agents from the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), National Capital Region Police Office and Western Police District collared Arena, Tan and Dy during an operation on May 24.

Two days later, they arrested a fourth suspect, Demetrio Manliclic, a driver.

"I don't know if these people will learn their lesson...Maybe they can run, but they can't hide," Ebdane told a press conference where the suspects were presented.

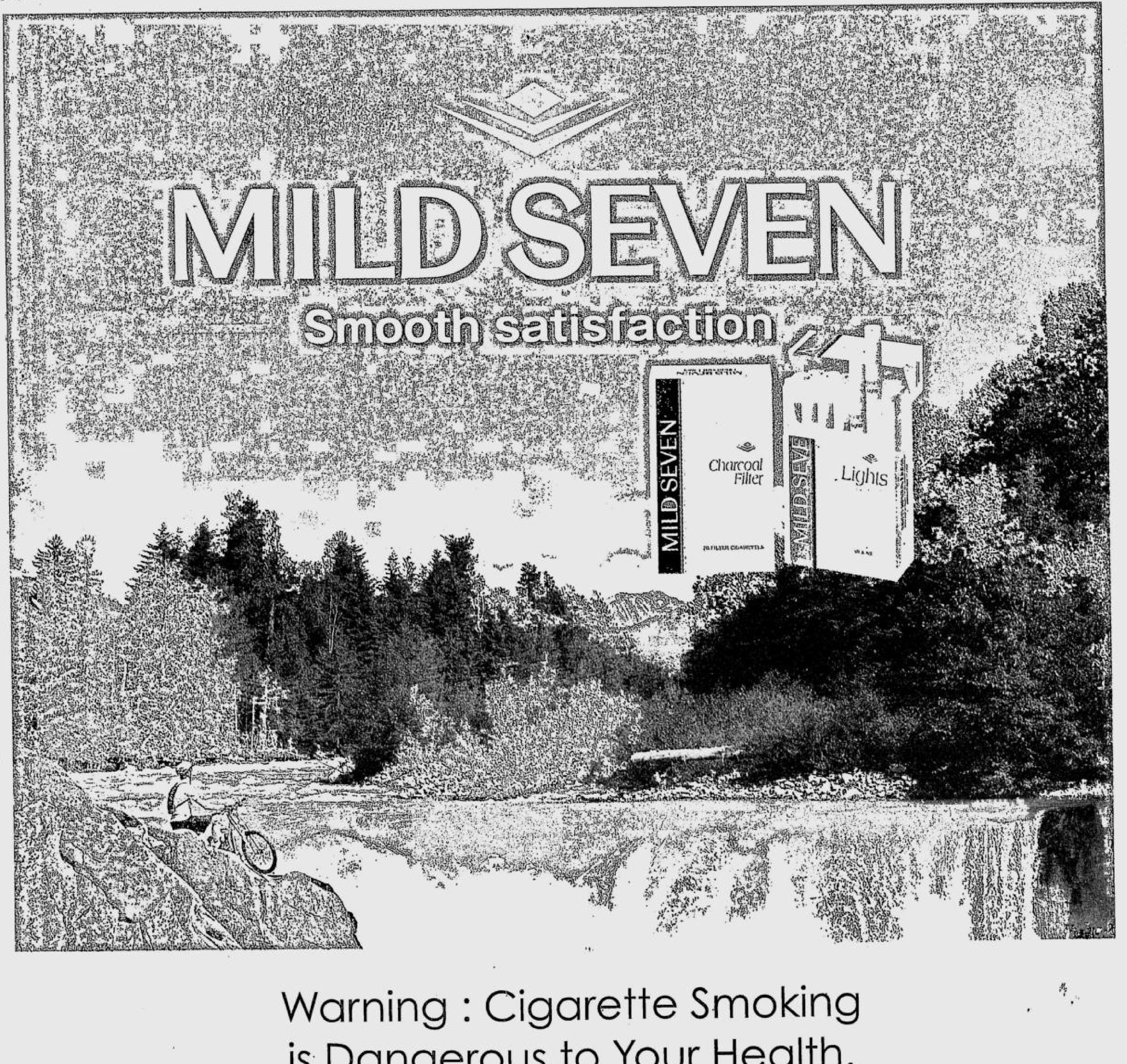
Ebdane said Tiu had escaped from his abductors on May 25. But an official privy to the operation said that the kidnappers had freed him somewhere in Rizal province after being told that the ransom had been paid.

The official said, however, that no ransom was paid.

"Apparently, there was miscommunication among themselves," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The suspects had also admitted abducting Mayson Ang and Jenny Chua last April. Seized from them were a Colt

4 KIDNAP/ A23



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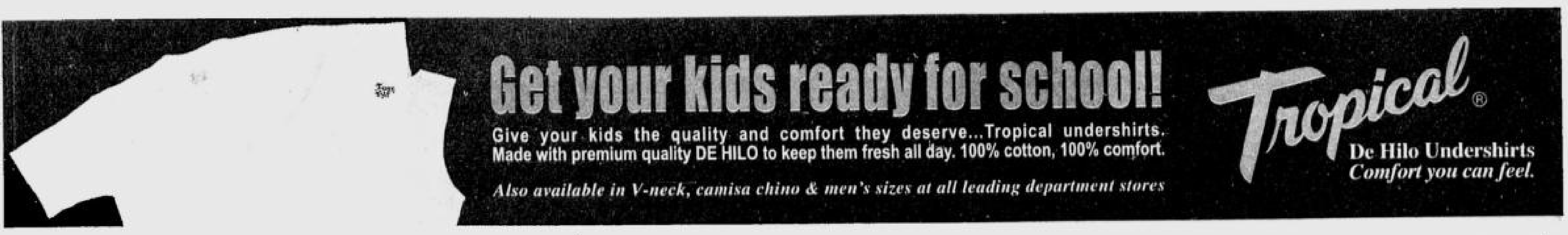
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Manila bar owner bares massive police extortion

By Margaux Ortiz and Jerome Aning

THE BAR owner who earlier had accused three policemen of extortion yesterday revealed the extent of the policemen's illegal operations and presented evidence to back up his claim.

Enrico Espinosa, owner of the Eros Bar & Restaurant on Adriatico Street, Malate, yesterday filed a complaint before the Manila Prosecutor's Office and accused PO2 Larry Javier, PO2 Roberto Chua and PO2 Bayani Nery of extorting P200,000 from him over the past four months.

Espinosa said the three policemen—members of the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group—have been collecting "goodwill money" even before he had opened his bar in early February.

Espinosa presented to Manila prosecutors vouchers, bank deposit slips and receipts detailing his transactions with the suspects.

Espinosa included in the charges Teddy Remandaban, an employee of the People's Law Enforcement Board, which handles administrative cases against erring lawmen.

In his statement, Espinosa said that other bar owners have also been made to cough up cash, which are turned over to top police officials.

Espinosa said he first met Remandaban in early January.

Espinosa said Remandaban allegedly asked P60,000 which would be distributed to officials of six police units.

In his four-page complaint, Espinosa said he was afraid that his bar's operations would be disrupted if he would not comply, so he agreed.

In the weeks that followed, the suspects demanded an additional P20,000 and a weekly amount of P9,500 from Espinosa.

On May 9, Espinosa was not able to give the complete amount to the suspects because he said "business was slow." Espinosa then got a threatening call from Javier.

On May 23, Javier, Chua and other policemen raided Eros Bar and arrested some of Espinosa's employees.

He claimed the suspects stripped one of his employees, snapped a photo of the latter and even asked money from customers. He said they even took liquor from the bar's cooler.

The bar owner said he received a call from Chua the next morning. He said Chua demanded P60,000 from him in exchange for the release of his employees. Espinosa said he refused.

"I did what they asked so that they would leave my bar alone, but all in vain . . . This is too much," Espinosa said in a handwritten statement distributed to media personnel.

Supt. Asher Dolina, an official of CIDG Manila, had denied Espinosa's accusations and claimed the raid was a legitimate operation.

In QC, parking lot owners now liable for damaged, stolen cars

By Agnes Donato

OWNERS of private parking lots in Quezon City will now be held liable for items that get lost or damaged in vehicles that are parked within their premises.

The Quezon City Council has passed an ordinance that named the owners of pay-parking areas as the ones responsible for the safety of vehicles that are parked within their premises.

According to the ordinance, the parking space owners are also responsible for securing their premises from any violence or crime.

With the new ordinance, owners of pay-parking areas are prohibited from stipulating in their contracts that they could not be held responsible for any loss or damage occurring in cars parked within their premises.

Violators will be penalized with a fine of not more than P5,000 and suspension of business permit for a period of not more than 60 days.

Open parking in Quezon City usually costs a car owner P20 for the first three hours, and an additional P5 for every succeeding hour.

Parking in covered spaces, on the other hand, costs P30 for the first three hours and an additional P10 for every hour beyond it.

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4 kidnap-for-ransom gang members held

THE FOUR suspects listen as national police officials in Camp Crame list down the charges against them. JOAN BONDOC

From page A22

45 cal. pistol, an Armscor 38 cal. revolver and a Smith and Wesson 38 cal. revolver.

Arena had been charged in connection with the kidnapping of one Channie Tan Son in 1999. Tan and Dy, on the other hand, had been charged with the kidnapping of four Chinese children in 1998.

Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, Pacer chief, brushed off speculations that his agency had watered down its figures on kidnapping cases to belie the reported surge in kidnap cases this year.

"The figures that we are presenting here are verified; these are not just products of reports," he said when asked why the Pacer's statistics on kidnap cases were lower than those of the Citizens' Action Against Crime.

So far, 26 kidnapping cases had been reported this year. These included two "live cases," meaning the victims are still in the hands of the kidnappers.

SM files raps vs striking workers

By Amy Remo

SHOEMART Security officials yesterday filed alarm and scandal and multiple injuries charges against striking SM workers and their sympathizers for the violence that erupted in the May 23 rally in front of the SM North Edsa mall in Quezon City.

In an affidavit submitted before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, the security guards claimed that the protesters pelted them with stones and hit them with their banners.

The guards have been identified as Emmanuel Labisig, Joseph Rosario, Doctor Aldrin, Fundador Maranga, Joselito Ramos, Joseph Sabado, Sherwin Ramirez, Gorgonio Buenaflor Jr., Charles Wayne Cruz, Rodolfo Estorba Jr. and Norman Azucena.

They belong to the Lambdan Security Agency Inc., Star Force Security & Allied Services Inc., and Paladin Protective & Security Services Inc., which all provide services to SM.

In their complaint, the guards said they were ordered to go to the Misamis gate around noon to contain the striking members of the Sandigan ng mga Manggagawa sa Shoemart (SMS).

They said that when they got to the gate, another group of protesters approached them from behind and boxed them in. The protesters then hit them with stones and clubs.

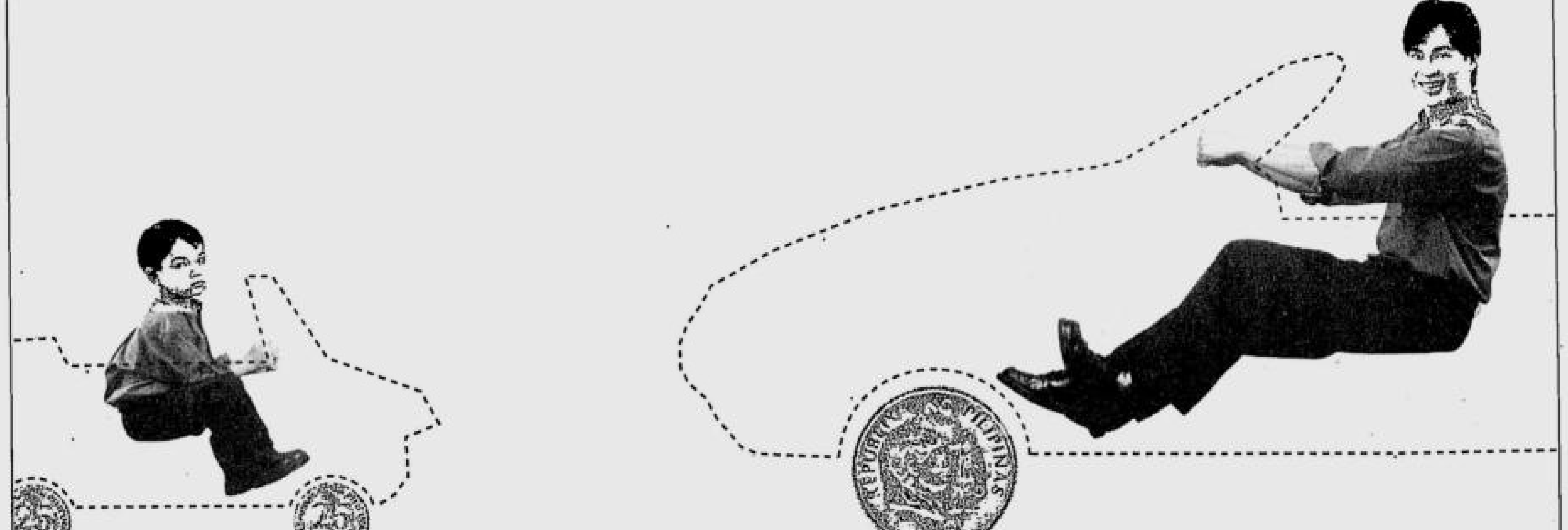
But according to Rose Gablanca, SMS president, the guards provoked the protesters when the former carried out a "brutal dispersal."

She said more than 60 protesters were hurt in the violent May 23 dispersal.

The SMS official said that they will also file a complaint of harassment against the SM management for the brutal dispersals.

"We are only waiting for the medical documents we need before we can file a complaint of harassment against the SM management," Gablanca said.

On March 25, SM workers went on strike and picketed the SM head office on Palanca Street Quiapo, Manila, as well as the SM branches in North Edsa, Cubao, Makati, Harrison Plaza and Quiapo.



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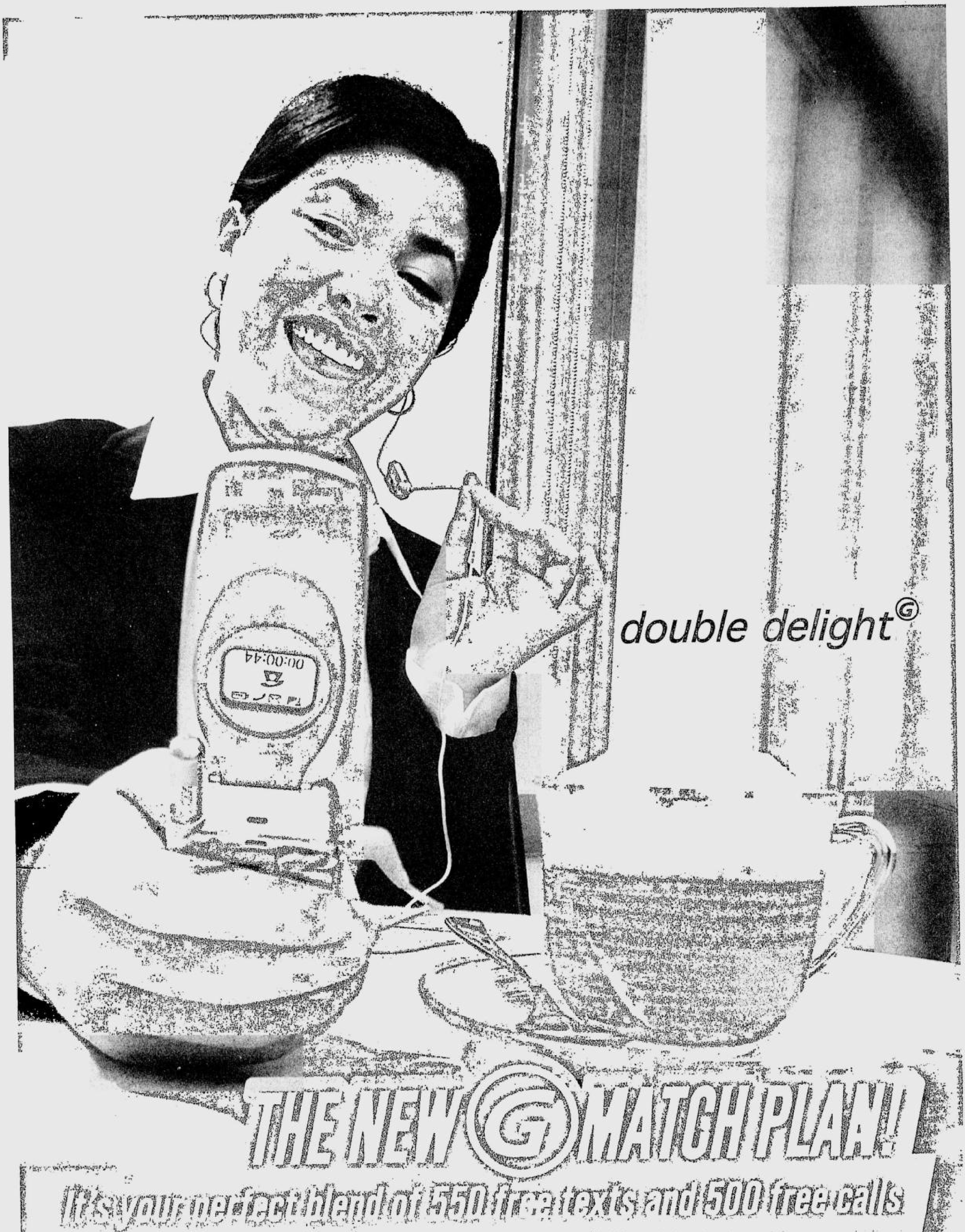

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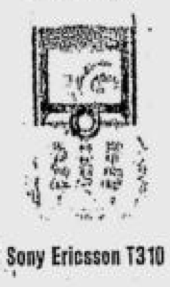
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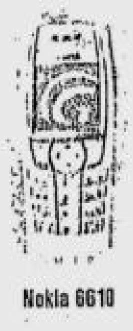
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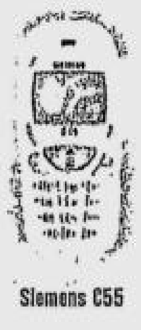
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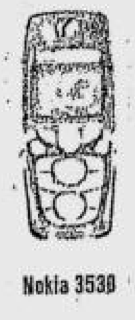
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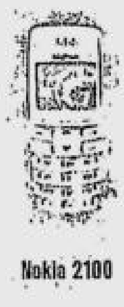
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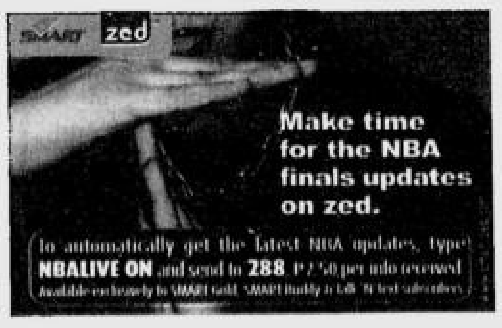
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Find drug source—Big J

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIND the source of all these illegal drugs.

With this battlecry, Sen. Robert Jaworski yesterday vowed to initiate an inquiry on the drug controversy which has so far involved 10 PBA players, including marquee players like Jun Limpot, Asi Taulava and Jimwell Torion.

"I will not ask them to incriminate themselves but to help themselves. So they might as well tell the committee from whom they get these drugs," said Jaworski. "For all we know, all these drugs might be coming from just one source inside the league."

Jaworski said he was shocked when three PBA players tested positive one after the other.

"But when the list went on, I was completely devastated," Jaworski said during a hastily called press conference at the Hyatt Hotel.

He said it has affected the PBA which "is also my family and my home."

Jaworski added that he dreads the thought of more positive findings coming out even as he readily signed a resolution that would gather PBA players who had tested positive for banned substance in the league's mandatory drug testing.

The senate hearing, which can be conducted by the games and amusements or the public safety committee, will zero in on sources of illegal drugs in the PBA when it starts either Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Jaworski said an inquiry is one way of finding out what really went wrong.

"They are functioning human beings and should be treated as victims," said Jaworski, who added that some players just might "wrongfully appreciate" drugs.

"Maybe they thought of it (drug) as some sort of a trend that they can follow," said the 56-year-old senator. "Well, it might enhance your performance now but it can kill you later."

Jaworski also recommended that the PBA launch a character enrichment program to educate the players of the dangers of the illegal drugs.

"It won't turn the players into priests, but it will enlighten them of its (drugs) effects on them, on their families, friends and the society."

Limpot blames nasal drug

By June Navarro

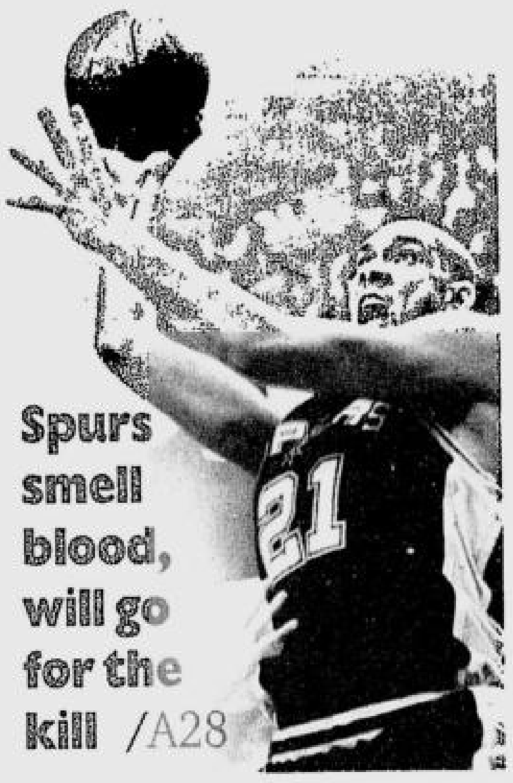
JUN Limpot of Barangay Ginebra yesterday maintained his innocence and said he would make an appeal before the PBA Commissioner's Office a day after being maligned for allegedly using prohibited drugs.

Limpot tagged the drug he had taken to fight off chronic rhinitis as the chief culprit for testing positive during the Gin Kings' mandatory drug check on May 19.

The former De La Salle Green Archer, a nephew of the late Gov. Jose Sering, said his doctor prescribed the drug Rhinofront on

LIMPOT/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE



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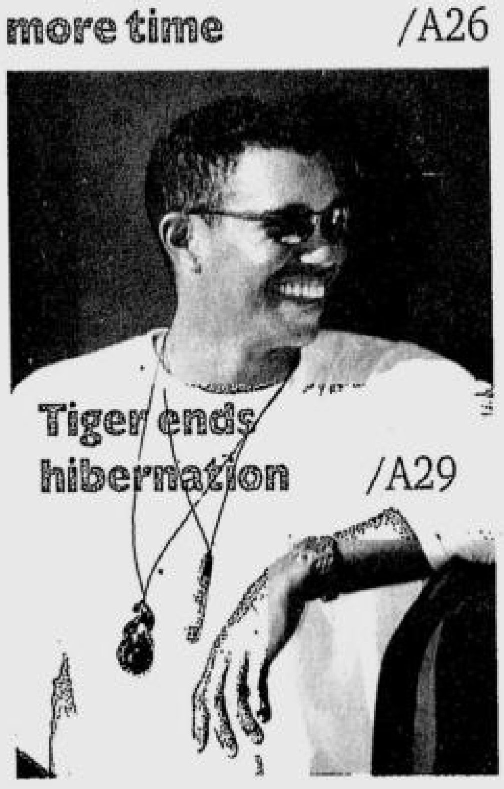

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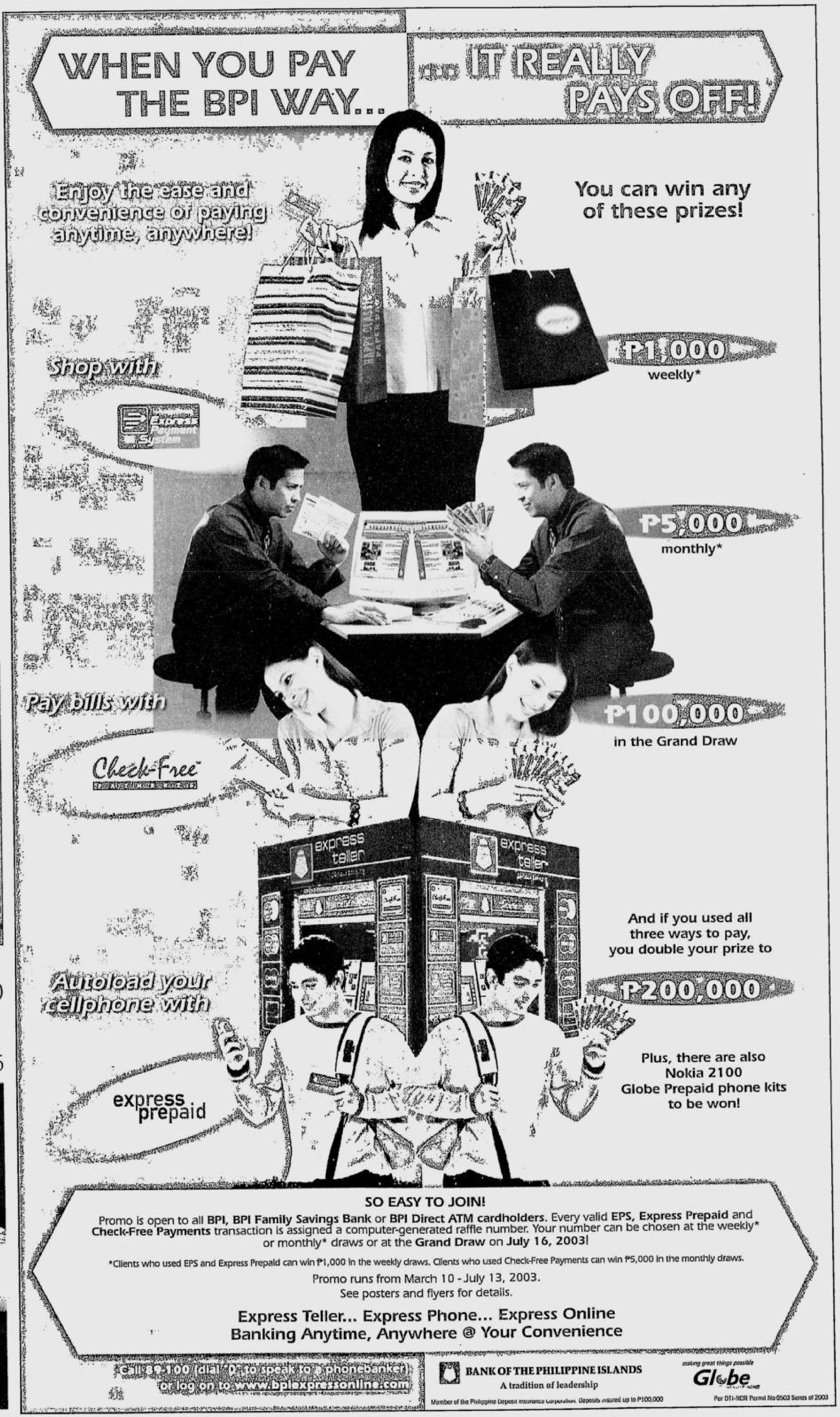
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Crispa,Toyota clash for old times' sake

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4 p.m.-PBA All Star side events
5 p.m.-Toyota vs Crispa (reunion game)

THE Philippine Basketball Association takes its million of fans down memory lane today when the Crispa Redmanizers and the Toyota Super Corollas clash to relive the league's greatest rivalry at the Araneta Coliseum.

Although the quickness and spring in their legs are long gone, the stars of both legendary squads who will show up in the 5 p.m. contest are expected to show the old fire and fierce determination that marked their 123 meetings since 1975.

The Redmanizers, who left the league in 1983, will be bannered by the core of the squad that pulled off the league's only two grand slams -- Atoy Co, Bogs Adornado, Philip Cezar, Abet Guidaben, Freddie Hubalde and Bernard Fabiosa.

Spearheading the Super Corollas, who folded up in 1984, will be the popular Robert Jaworski, now a member of the Philippine senate, and Ramon Fernandez, the only four-time Most Valuable Player of the league.

To complete the reunion, Baby Dalupan and Tommy Manotoc will sit on the bench of Crispa while Dante Silverio will do the same for Toyota.

Dalupan steered Crispa to its first grand slam in 1976 while Manotoc duplicated the feat in 1983.

Also seeing action for the Redmanizers are Tito Varela, Romy Mamaril, Bong de la Cruz, Itoy Esguerra, Cris Calilan, Rudy Soriano, Mon Cruz, Willy Tanduyan, Rey Pajes, Rey Franco, Joy Dionisio and Dave Brodett.

Returning for the Super Corollas are Chito Loyzaga, Terry Saldana, Ed Cordero, Boy Clarino, Orly Bauzon, Emer Legaspi, Tino Reynoso, Ompong Segura, Ed Camus, Rolly Marcelo, Ulysses Rodriguez, Oscar Rocha and Gil Cortez.

The rivalry, which was so intense the players fought in and out of the court,officially ended on Oct. 9, 1983 before the usual SRO crowd with Crispa winning, 111-96.

That gave the Redmanizers a three-game edge in their personal duel with the Super Corollas, 63-60.

Some of the Redmanizers tried to weave their old magic with some teams when Crispa disbanded and many of the Super Corollas also rebuilt their careers with other squads when Toyota also quit a year later in 1984.

But no rivalry in the PBA came close to approximating the Crispa-Toyota feud.

Crispa also won its first-ever meeting with Toyota on May 10, 1975 before the Super Corollas beat the Redmanizers in their next 13 meetings for the year. In 1976, Crispa returned the favor, winning also 13 times over Toyota en route to its first grand slam.

They battled 10 times in 1977 with Crispa winning six. The Redmanizers again had the edge in 1978, winning five of nine contests.

Toyota got back at Crispa in 1979, scoring 10 victories in 18 matches. They split their 14 games in 1980 as their

10 encounters in 1981 and 12 meetings in 1982.

Crispa finally won the private war by securing four victories in six games in 1983.

Agassi survives high-wire performer from Croatia; Serena extends streak

PARIS — Like Goran Ivanisevic, a compatriot and longtime practice partner, 19-year-old Mario Ancic is a tall, lanky native of Split, Croatia, who speaks in a baritone and swings with abandon, which makes him a dangerous opponent.

Ancic won the first two sets and was twice up a service break in the third set of his match against Andre Agassi before he wavered only slightly. Ever the opportunist, Agassi seized the opening and rallied to win 5-7, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in the second round of the French Open.

"You fell down just little bit, and then he take over and everything changes so fast," said Ancic, his charming fractured English a dead ringer for Ivanisevic's. "Every small chance, it's like whole planet. It's such a big thing."

The 3-hour, 13-minute drama thrilled the crowd on Court Suzanne Lenglen and served as a tribute to Agassi's remarkable fitness at age 33. Five times he has won after losing the first two sets, including against Andrei Medvedev in the 1999 French Open final.

"He just earned it. It wasn't that I gave it," Ancic said. "That's why he won so many Grand Slams."

The match also underscored the potential of Ancic (pronounced an-CHICH), who reached the fourth round in the Australian Open in January, beat Roger Federer at Wimbledon last summer and has been touted as an emerging star.

In his appearance, mannerisms and shotmaking, Ancic draws comparisons to Ivanisevic, whose droll wit and high-wire tennis, especially at Wimbledon, made him one of the most popular players on the men's tour.

Wednesday's match left no doubt that Ancic possesses the talent to justify the comparisons.

"He has so much eagerness," Agassi said. "He wants every point, no matter what the score. That's a good thing for his future."

One frantic exchange sent the 1.93-meter (6-foot-4) Ancic sprawling not once, but twice. He hit a lunging volley and rolled in the dirt, rose, then dove again but failed to intercept an Agassi winner. Ancic slowly stood to cheers, his backside caked with clay that was still there when the match ended.

By improving to 9-0 this year in Grand Slam events, Agassi advanced to the third round against 26th-seeded Xavier Malisse. The Belgian survived his own five-setter, beating Stefan Koubek 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 8-6.

Other second-round winners included No. 4 Carlos Moya of Spain, No. 7 Guillermo Coria of Argentina and German No. 11 Rainer Schuettler, the Australian Open runner-up to Agassi.

Andre Agassi hammers a backhand to Croatia's Mario Ancic during their second round match of the French Open at Roland Garros. AP

On the women's side, defending champion Serena Williams extended her Grand Slam winning streak to 30 matches, beating Switzerland's Marie-Gaianeh Mikaelian 6-3, 6-2. Also advancing were No. 4 Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium, French No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo and No. 8 Chanda Rubin of the United States.

There were two other second-round marathons.

American 18-year-old Ashley Harkleroad advanced to the third round of a Grand Slam event for the first time, beating ninth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 7-6 (2), 4-6, 9-7.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the 1996 champion, was eliminated in the 30th five-set match of his career. Brazil's Flavio Saretta outlasted the 17th-seeded Russian 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, 6-7 (0), 6-4 in 3 hours, 55 minutes.

Unlike Agassi, Kafelnikov looked exhausted down the stretch — and confessed he was.

"In the beginning of the fifth set, I was ready to collapse," said Kafelnikov, 29. "It's not a nice feeling when in the back of the head you want to finish the match as quick as possible."

Agassi's problem at the finish wasn't conditioning, but nerves. Serving for the match at 5-3, he double-faulted three times, including once on match point and again on break point.

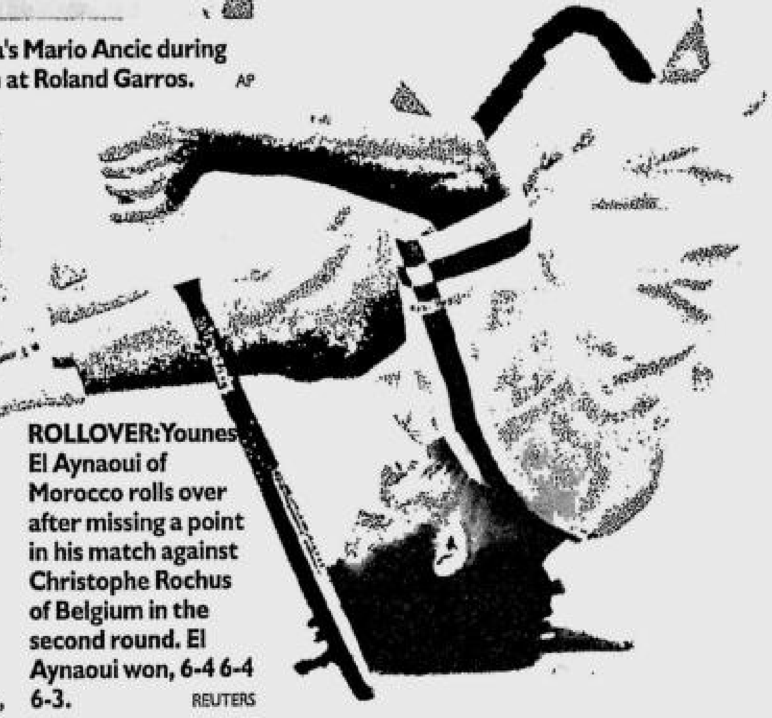
Ancic saved four match points in all before dumping his final shot into the net. That made it 148 points for Agassi, 147 for Ancic.

"You certainly feel relieved that you sort of have another life now," Agassi said of his great escape. "I put the wins behind me a lot easier than the losses."

The victory was the 763rd for Agassi, putting him one ahead of Pete Sampras in sixth place among Open Era leaders.

For Ancic, who played only his ninth Grand Slam match, the latest one was difficult to rank. He ran his hand through his air, contemplated the matter and then smiled.

"Put as one of my great matches until now," he said. "The crowd was really unbelievable. I enjoy. Everything was perfect — except I lost." *AP*



ROLLOVER:Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco rolls over after missing a point in his match against Christophe Rochus of Belgium in the second round. El Aynaoui won, 6-4 6-4 6-3. REUTERS

HANTUCHOVA covers up after her defeat, but fails to hide a figure that worries her coach.

Too thin, Hantuchova worries coach

PARIS - A painfully-thin Daniela Hantuchova faced a barrage of questions about her eating habits on Wednesday after she lost in the second round at the French Open.

The 20-year-old ninth seed was outlasted 7-6 4-6 9-7 by American Ashley Harkleroad and was then immediately quizzed about her appearance and diet.

Standing 1.81 metres tall and weighing just 54 kilograms, Hantuchova is slender at the best of times. But she has lost weight this year and her gaunt face bears little resemblance to the smiling photo which appears in the WTA's Player Guide.

Earlier this month, the Slovak's coach -- Briton Nigel Sears -- told repotters he was a little concerned about his charge's appearance.

On Wednesday, Hantuchova said she had no eating problems but admitted she was finding it difficult to put on weight.

"I try to eat calories before the matches," she said. "But as you see, when I play long matches I just burn so much that it's really hard to get it all back." *Reuters*

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Limpot blames nasal drug

From page A25

May 13 to treat his respiratory ailment. He said he took it for seven straight days.

"The PBA should have asked the players first what substances they had taken before administering the drug test," said lawyer Luz Sering, Limpot's first cousin and daughter of the former Philippine Olympic Committee president.

Sering said Limpot respects the decision of the PBA but would immediately ask for a review on how the procedure of the tests was done after collating the pieces of evidence that would prove Limpot's innocence.

She said they went to four different hospitals in the metropolis and had Limpot's urine sample tested. All tests yielded negative results, Sering said.

She added they would also ask the PNP-Crime Laboratory for a detailed breakdown of the drug Rhinofront to further strengthen their claim.

"After that, we will immediately make an appeal asking the PBA to review the entire procedure on how they came up with that decision," Sering told the Inquirer.

Limpot has seven days to make an appeal from the time the Commissioner's Office made the announcement of his indefinite suspension.

"He never took banned drugs in his entire life and because of that people are beginning to doubt the system. His case could be an eye-opener for the PBA," she added.

LIMPOT PDI PHOTO

Barangay Ginebra team manager Ira Maniquis said he would also ask for a clarification on the procedures used in the testing.

"I'm calling for a review of the whole procedure. Although we're not contesting the results, we are seeking clarification on the procedure," said Maniquis.

Limpot tested positive for prohibited drugs along with Noli Locsin and Long David of Talk N Text, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx, Davonn Harp of Red Bull and Dorian Pena of San Miguel Beer.

Pena, a second-time offender who had tested positive for marijuana at the start of the season, admitted having taken Xenadrine, a drug supplement which contains 20 milligrams of ephedrine per tablet.

He said the pill, which was banned worldwide for its performance-enhancing capabilities, could have triggered the results of the test.

Batang Red Bull's Davonn Harp was also set to make an appeal before the league along with Long David and Noli Locsin of Talk N Text and Ryan Bernardo of FedEx.

SMB hires Paras

BENJIE Paras was reactivated from retirement by San Miguel Beer yesterday after it signed up the 1989 Rookie-MVP for two months.

San Miguel Beer team manager Robert Non said the 6-foot-4 Paras, who was retired by Shell at the start of the season, will join the Beermen's practice today at the Acropolis Gym and start seeing action for San Miguel Beer in the quarterfinals next week.

Non said Shell, which has the right of first refusal over Paras, promptly gave its blessings for the 1999 PBA MVP to don the San Miguel Beer jersey.

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SPORTSWATCH

Sison trips Lapore

SUBIC—Former RP Davis Cupper Virgilio "Beeyong" Sison showed his old-deadly form to boot out seventh seed Jesse Lapore, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday and reach the third round of the second Coca-Cola National Open Tennis Championships at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center Indoor courts here. Sison, president of the Subic Bay Sports Management Inc., which is in charge of the tennis center, will face Iligan City's Joel Palao, a 7-5, 6-2 winner over Raymond Villarete. Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy players Miguel Narvaez and Michael Basco and Davao City's Ricky Catito also scored upset wins to earn third-round berths.

Cebu hosts Challenge

THE ADIDAS Streetball Challenge 2003 competition resumes with its penultimate stage on May 30-31 for the Cebu eliminations–last stop of its Visayas swing. Expected to grace the opening ceremonies of the Cebu leg are adidas Philippines managing director John Alonte and sports marketing assistant manager Goody Custodio. Top winners here will represent the region in the Visayas Finals on June 1 at the SM City Atrium. The Streetball Challenge 2003 is co-presented by Globe Gentext in cooperation with WG&A, adidas fragrance and body care for men, Powerade, Viva mineral water, Cafe Lupe, Milo, Warner Music, Cafe Lupe, Ford, Purefoods Corned Beef, Snickers, Pink Magazine, Chalke magazine, Studio 23, Magic 89.9, dwTM and 99.5 RT.

Cage shootout today

A BASKETBALL tilt at the malls, a celebrity/corporate badminton tournament and a darts competition will mark the 20th anniversary of Sportshouse, the leading retailer of sports gears in the country. Founded by Mars Chua two decades ago, Sportshouse will launch its basketball shootout today (May 30) at SM Bacoor in Cavite. The cagefest is open to the public and will feature a three-point shootout, 2-ball, Beat My Score and Celebrity 2 on May 31. "These events are our gestures of goodwill for the continuing patronage of the Filipino consumers. We also want to foster the spirit of sportsmanship among our faithful clientele specially the youth," said Roy Ordiales of Sportshouse.

Powerlifting tilt set

THE POWERLIFTING Association of the Philippines will hold its annual competition for novice and professional powerlifters on May 31 and June 1 at the Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite. Called the Jonvic Remulla Cup, the competition is open to both men and women in several weight classes—52-67.5 kilos; 75 to 82.5 kilos and 125 kilos. Trophies, medals and gift packs courtesy of Cavite Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla and Avon Philippines await the winners. For inquiries, contact tournament directors Rene Dio and Jimbo Bautista at 884-1161-64 or 09175404111, 09175034811.

Pasay 4-cock tonight

TWO-time international derby champion William Go of Rizal plays host to a super four-cock derby tonight at the Pasay Cockpit. More than 70 fights are slated in the meet sponsored by Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. "This derby is one of PCC's biggest attractions this year. Aficionados can expect quality fights because participants will come from well-known groups like PCCA, Ucap and NCA," chorused pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. For more details, please contact 843-1890, 843-1764 and 816-6750.

Big Dome tilt Monday

THE COUNTRY'S leading cockers are seeing action in the "Encounter at the Big Dome" 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum on Monday (June 2). It will be hosted by "sabong" luminaries Ito Ynares and Gerry Ramos. Heading the elite roster are Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio, lawyer Rudy Salud, Eddie Araneta, Jessie Viceo, Butch and Jake Macasaet and Sonny Lagon.

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Race 4--1. Silver Dollar 2. Ahead of Time 3. Brenda Starr

Race 5--1. Kokopelli 2. Successfil Dream/Flying Machine 3. Music Express

Race 6--1. Real Material 2. Court General 3. Hurricane Doding

Race 7--1. Morning After 2. Agimat 3. Hingis 4. Voltes May

Race 8--1. Ocean Dignity/Long Road 2. Sunny Sky 3. Steel Wheel

Race 9--1. Wynona Raider 2. Nureyev Heiress 3. Flying Fortress 4. Heavy Metal 5. Pep Talk 6. Pep Up

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PBL UNITY CUP

Montaña, Hapee subdue foes, inch closer to title showdown

GAMES TOMORROW *(Pasay Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Viva vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Hapee vs John-O

MONTAÑA Pawnshop and Hapee Toothpaste yesterday moved closer to a title showdown in the Sunkist-PBL 2003 Unity Cup by blasting their respective semifinal foes at the Pasay Sports Center.

The Jewelers outclassed John-O, 72-59, while Hapee finished strong in downing Viva Mineral Water, 74-65, to show the way with identical 3-1 win-loss records.

Viva dropped to third with a 2-2 slate with John-O, tagged as a strong title contender after topping the eliminations, suffering its fourth consecutive setback.

John-O sank only 20 of 71 attempts from the field and got little help from Ranidel de Ocampo and Celino Cruz.

De Ocampo delivered four points and three rebounds while playing for nine minutes due to a right shoulder injury. Cruz was nursing a flu and played only for three minutes.

The Jewelers seized control midway in the second period and even led by 20 points at 58-38 in the last quarter.

John Dan Salvador led Montaña with 15 points. Jam Alfad and Christian Coronel added 10 each.

Hapee unloaded an 11-point blast in the final six minutes to repulse Viva, which upset Montaña the other day.

Allan Salangsang paced Hapee with 16 points on top of nine rebounds.

MONTAÑA 72--Salvador 15, Alfad 10, Coronel 10, Magsumbol 9, Basco 8, Mendoza 6, David 5, Robinson 5, Guerrero 4, Sayon 0.

JOHN-O 59--Macapagal 14, Melencio 9, Madrid 8, Oreta 7, Calimag 6, McCoy 5, De Ocampo 4, Vergara 2, Laygo 2, Menor 2, Ortega 0, Cruz 0, Kiram 0.

Quarters: 19-17; 37-25; 51-38; 72-59.

HAPEE 74 --Salangsang 16, Tan 11, Simon 11, Gonzales 11, Gelig 10, Luanzon 6, Alvarez 4, Mercado 2, Tenorio 2, Espiritu 1, Dualan 0, Saquilayan 0, Dy 0.

VIVA 65-- Isip 11, Miranda 10,Sinco 9, Ybanez 9, Misolas 7, Margate 7, Jones 5, Napa 5, Zablan 2, Yabut 0, Co 0, Razon 0, Calli 0.

Quarters: 13-16, 33-36, 49-53, 74-65.

SPORTS TV

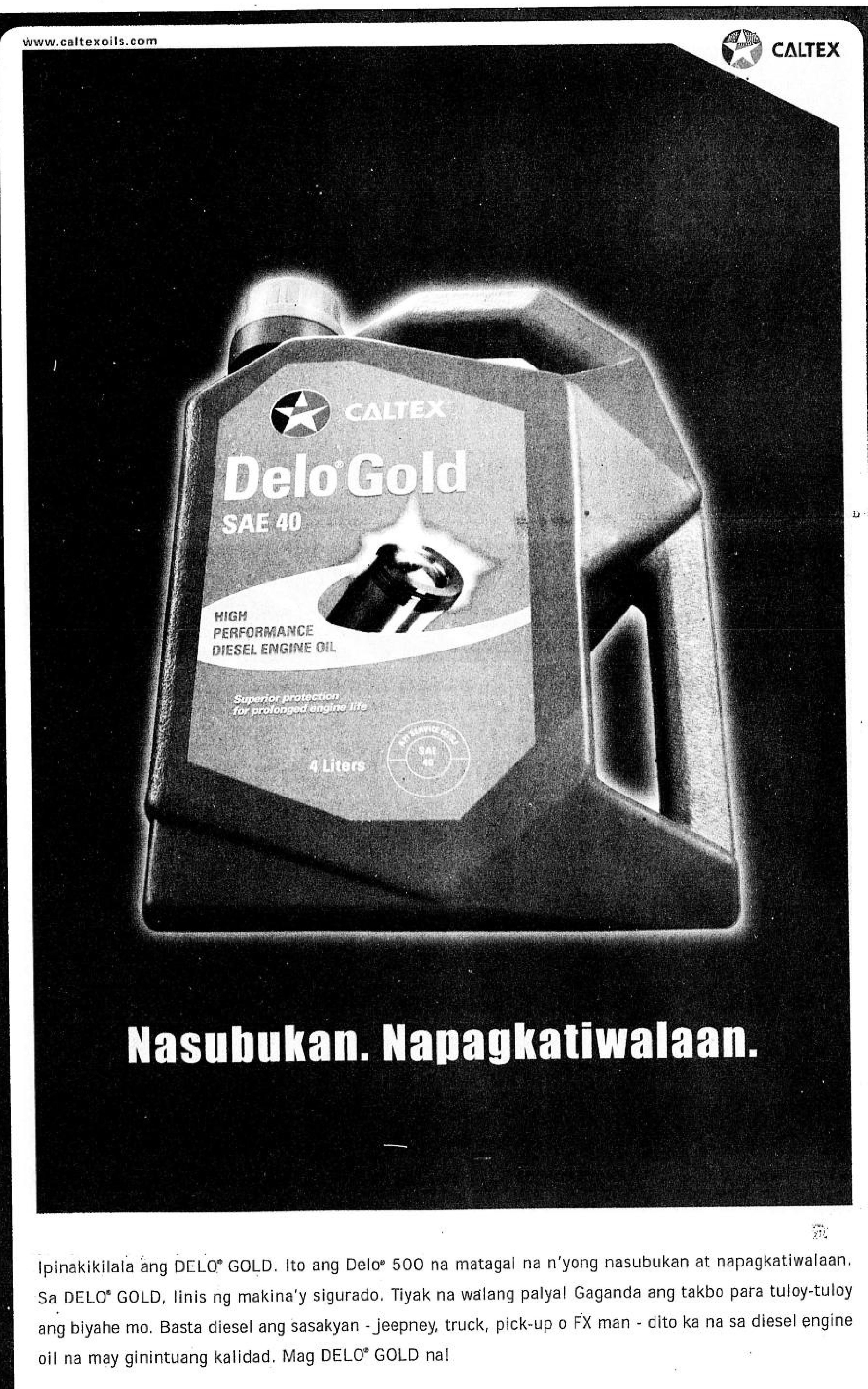
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Spurs vs Mavericks, Game 6; 9 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - Dallas attempts to force a decisive Game 7 against San Antonio.

MOTOR SPORTS: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying; 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports - The battle for pole position begins in Monte Carlo.

GOLF: The Golf Club 2003; 10:30 a.m.; Star Sports - Find out the freshest news in the golf scene in this show.

Royal Challenge Indian Open 2003; 12 noon; Star Sports - Take a closer look at the highlights of last week's event in India.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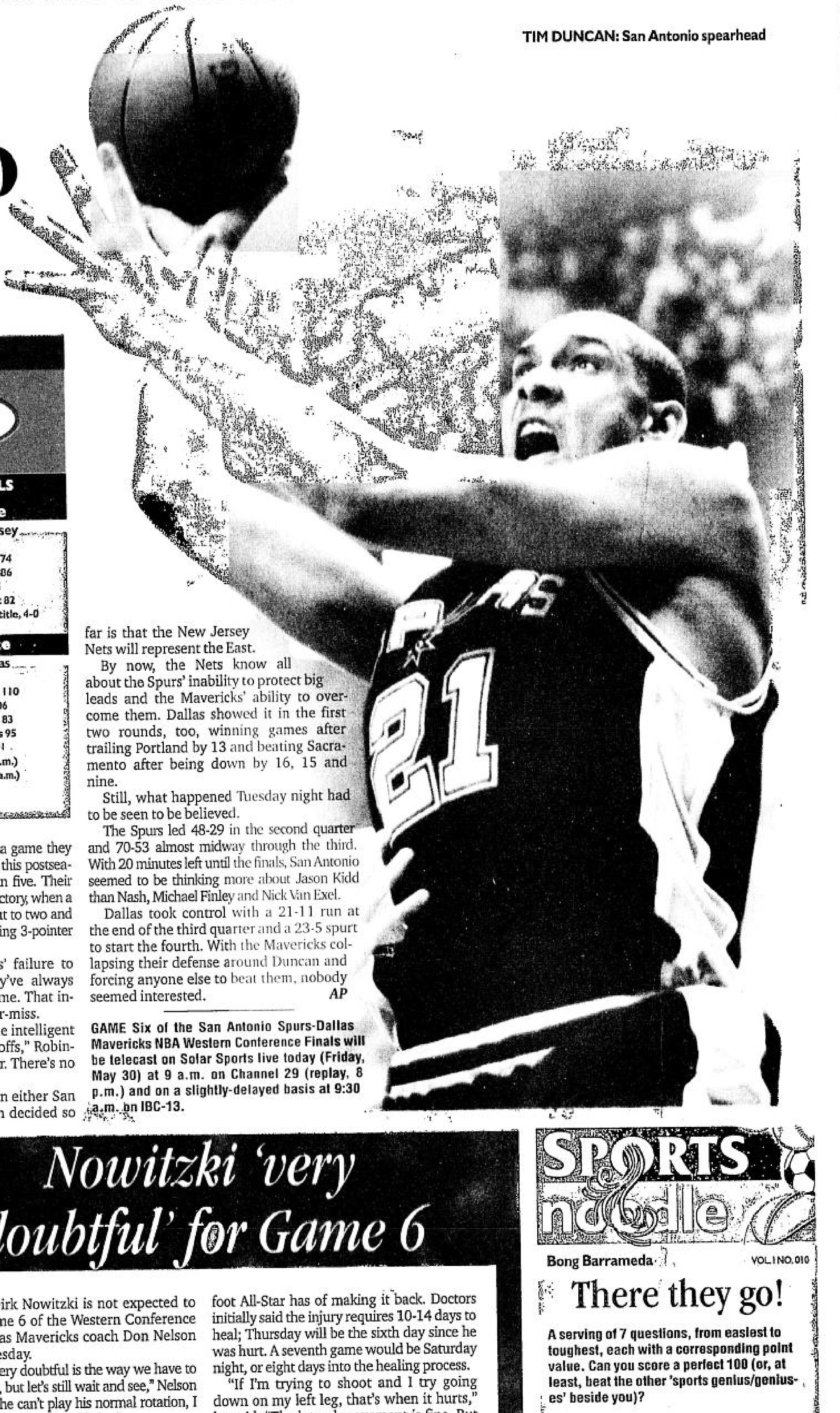
Spurs smell blood, will go for the kill



TIM DUNCAN: San Antonio spearhead

DALLAS — From classy David Robinson to unflappable Tim Duncan to charming Frenchman Tony Parker, the San Antonio Spurs are filled with model citizens.

That's fine off the court.

On it, Malik Rose thinks his team needs to show more of a mean streak.

"It's like, once we have a team down, we tend to give them life by not putting our foot on them and keeping them down," Rose said. "We smell blood, we're supposed to be going for the kill. But we have had tendencies to relax."

The Spurs did it again Tuesday night against the Dallas Mavericks in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals.

In a game that could have clinched a spot in the NBA Finals, San Antonio was up by 19 points in the second quarter and still ahead 17 in the third, but wound up losing by 12, setting up Game 6 Thursday night in Dallas.

Although the Mavericks still trail in the series 3-2 and are likely to again be without leading scorer and rebounder Dirk Nowitzki, they're still playing. And that's all they care about.

"We feel as though anything is possible," Dallas point guard Steve Nash said. "If we just stay with it and allow ourselves to be in the game, we've got enough guys with the toughness to come through. We know our season could be over tomorrow night. At the same time, we feel real confident that we can push it to seven games and in a seventh game we've been there before."

Dallas knows a team facing elimination can win three straight because Portland did it against the Mavs in the first round. Dallas recovered to win Game 7, and won a deciding game against Sacramento in the second round.

The Mavericks likely will have to stretch the series another game for Nowitzki to return. The left knee he sprained in Game 3 was still achy Wednesday and coach Don Nelson said his 7-foot All-Star is "very doubtful" for Game 6. Nowitzki listed himself as a game-time decision.

"I'll just try to get the knee loose and see how it feels," he said.

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

CONFERENCE FINALS

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (2) New Jersey
Pistons 0, Nets 4
Game 1: New Jersey 76, Detroit 74
Game 2: New Jersey 88, Detroit 86
Game 3: New Jersey 97, Detroit 85
Game 4: New Jersey 102, Detroit 82
New Jersey wins Eastern Conference title, 4-0

Western Conference

(1) San Antonio vs (3) Dallas
Spurs 3, Mavericks 2
Game 1: Dallas 113, San Antonio 110
Game 2: San Antonio 119, Dallas 106
Game 3: San Antonio 96, Dallas 83
Game 4: San Antonio 102, Dallas 95
Game 5: Dallas 103, San Antonio 91
Game 6 at Dallas (May 30, 9:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 1, 8:30 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

The Spurs know all about losing a game they should have won. Of their six losses this postseason, they held a double-digit lead in five. Their biggest collapse, though, came in a victory, when a 25-point lead over the Lakers was cut to two and Robert Horry's potential game-winning 3-pointer rimmed out at the buzzer.

The only upside of the Spurs' failure to close out big leads is that they've always bounced back to win the next game. That includes the game after Horry's near-miss.

"We've been in and out with the intelligent quotient so far during these playoffs," Robinson said. "We've got to be smarter. There's no room for error now."

The NBA Finals begin June 4 in either San Antonio or Dallas. All that's been decided so far is that the New Jersey Nets will represent the East.

By now, the Nets know all about the Spurs' inability to protect big leads and the Mavericks' ability to overcome them. Dallas showed it in the first two rounds, too, winning games after trailing Portland by 13 and beating Sacramento after being down by 16, 15 and nine.

Still, what happened Tuesday night had to be seen to be believed.

The Spurs led 48-29 in the second quarter and 70-53 almost midway through the third. With 20 minutes left until the finals, San Antonio seemed to be thinking more about Jason Kidd than Nash, Michael Finley and Nick Van Exel.

Dallas took control with a 21-11 run at the end of the third quarter and a 23-5 spurt to start the fourth. With the Mavericks collapsing their defense around Duncan and forcing anyone else to beat them, nobody seemed interested. *AP*

GAME Six of the San Antonio Spurs-Dallas Mavericks NBA Western Conference Finals will be telecast on Solar Sports live today (Friday, May 30) at 9 a.m. on Channel 29 (replay, 8 p.m.) and on a slightly-delayed basis at 9:30 a.m. on IBC-13.

Nowitzki 'very doubtful' for Game 6

NOWITZKI: Very doubtful starter

DALLAS--Dirk Nowitzki is not expected to play in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson said Wednesday.

"I'd say very doubtful is the way we have to approach it, but let's still wait and see," Nelson said. "If he can't play his normal rotation, I don't think he should play."

Nowitzki said he planned to rest his sprained left knee until a pregame shootaround Thursday night. The San Antonio Spurs lead the series 3-2 and can advance to the NBA Finals with another win.

"It will probably come down to how I feel right before the game," he said. "The thing is, I can't have any pain. I can't go out there with the mindset that it's not great and I can't really push off. I've got to know I won't have any pain once I'm out there.

"I'm not really confident in my knee right now. But I'm sure by tomorrow I'll feel a lot better."

Dallas is 1-1 without its leading scorer and rebounder, falling to the brink of elimination, then overcoming a 19-point deficit Tuesday night to stretch the series to a sixth game.

The longer it goes, the better chance the 7-foot All-Star has of making it back. Doctors initially said the injury requires 10-14 days to heal; Thursday will be the sixth day since he was hurt. A seventh game would be Saturday night, or eight days into the healing process.

"If I'm trying to shoot and I try going down on my left leg, that's when it hurts," he said. "The lateral movement is fine. But it's going down and squatting for my shot that gives me the most problems."

Nelson said he will make the final decision on whether to use Nowitzki, but he'll seek input from doctors, trainers and, of course, Nowitzki.

Nowitzki hoped to not even miss a game. But after his knee began shaking just from standing on the sideline through the fourth quarter of Game 4, he realized Nelson made the right call in making him sit out. He was optimistic about Game 5, too, then got sore just from squatting.

"I think he knows now I was right in holding him back when he wanted to play," Nelson said. "He really couldn't and I knew that. So now I think I'll get a different answer from him, not an answer full of emotion, but really whether or not he's able to play at 100 percent."

The "normal rotation" Nelson referred to is an average of 42.5 minutes this postseason, the most on the team. The figure is inflated a bit by Nowitzki playing all 58 minutes in a double-overtime game against Sacramento in the second round. *AP*

Blazers won't let Sixers talk to Cheeks

PORTLAND, Ore.--The Trail Blazers turned down the Philadelphia 76ers' request to speak to Portland coach Maurice Cheeks as a possible replacement for Larry Brown.

Blazers spokesman Mike Hanson said Wednesday Philadelphia management had asked to speak with Cheeks, but the request was denied.

Brown resigned Monday after six seasons with the 76ers. Cheeks, who played for the 76ers for 11 seasons and was part of their 1983 NBA championship team, has been mentioned as a candidate for the vacancy.

Cheeks also served as an assistant coach there for seven seasons, four under Brown. However, he has one year left on his contract with the Blazers, along with a team option, so the 76ers would need permission to approach Cheeks.

"Philadelphia did contact us asking permission to speak to Maurice about its coaching vacancy, but we feel it is in the best interest of our organization and community to deny that request," Hanson said.

Cheeks was diplomatic, saying he was honored that Philadelphia was interested.

"Honestly, I kind of got a little sad about it because I wanted the opportunity to talk to them. It would have been great to talk to them," he said. "But at the same time it was a special feeling for me, because it said to me they wanted me to be here. They wanted to keep me around for a long, long time, I hope."

Cheeks, who still owns a home in Philadelphia, spoke fondly of the city and its people.

"I've had a great time here. You don't want to compare Portland and Philadelphia because I spent a long, long time in Philadelphia. So it would have been a little difficult for me to choose between them," he said at a news conference.

Cheeks has been Portland's head coach the last two seasons, accumulating a 99-65 record while overseeing a troubled team that had a spate of on- and off-court problems. Three players were cited this season for marijuana possession, and another was arrested for alleged domestic violence.

Forward Rasheed Wallace also was suspended for seven games for threatening a referee on the Rose Garden's loading dock after a game.

The Blazers ended the season 50-32 but lost to Dallas in seven games in the first round of the playoffs. In Cheeks' first season with the team, the Blazers were swept by the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round.

But Cheeks garnered good feeling among the fans this season when he came to the rescue of a 13-year-old girl who was struggling with the words to the national anthem before one of the Blazers' playoff games. The gesture earned Cheeks national attention, even an appearance on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. *AP*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL.I NO.010

There they go!

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True / ☐ False: Only colts-young male horses-are allowed to compete in most horse races.

2 > 5 Pts.

The first totalizator or totalizer-a device for calculating bets-was invented in 1930 in what country?

☐ Australia
☐ United States

3 > 7 Pts.

What was the first horse to win the local version of the Triple Crown?

☐ Time Master
☐ Skywalker
☐ Fair and Square

4 > 10 Pts.

What's the name of the bugle call accompanying the horses entering the track for the post parade?

☐ 'Boots and Saddles'
☐ 'Take Me to the Races'
☐ 'The Red Flag Is Up'

5 > 15 Pts.

Who is the winningest horse race jockey of all time with over 9,000 victories?

☐ Angel Cordero
☐ Eddie Arcaro
☐ Pincay Laffit, Jr.
☐ Willie Shoemaker

6 > 25 Pts.

In 1985 a yearling named Seattle Dancer (half-brother of Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew) became the highest-priced racehorse in history when it was bought for about how much?

☐ $10 million
☐ $13 million
☐ $17 million
☐ $20 million

7 > 30 Pts.

Considered the greatest horse race of all time, Man o' War won 20 of 21 races from 1919 to 1920 and set many American track records. What aptly-named horse was the only one to beat Man o' War?

ANSWERS/ A30

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GOLF COMEBACKS

Annika returns to LPGA, where she belongs

AURORA, Illinois—Laura Diaz remembers making her way to the putting green as Annika Sorenstam teed off in her first tournament of the year, passing fans who had lined up eight deep.

That kind of crowd usually only shows up for a US Open. And this was still two months before the Colonial.

So just imagine the turnout at this weekend's Kellogg-Keebler Classic, when Sorenstam returns to the LPGA Tour after a brief, but historic foray onto the PGA Tour.

"What she did last week at Colonial is going to have a lifetime effect on the LPGA Tour," Diaz said Wednesday. "Not only did she bring new fans, but those are people who rooted her on. They weren't just fans for a week. Those are going to be fans for a lifetime."

Sorenstam missed the cut at the Colonial, but she won the adoration of millions worldwide with her gutty, graceful performance. She proved she has the game to keep up with the big boys, shooting 71-74 on a 7,080-yard course that's the longest and toughest she's faced.

And she did it despite facing more pressure than any golfer–any athlete, perhaps–has ever had. Every shot was televised, every move she made analyzed.

"It was just so overwhelming," Rosie Jones said. "She elevated the game of golf not only for women, but golf itself. She's elevated the tour by her presence."

Sorenstam insisted she played the Colonial simply to test herself against the best players in the world, not to prove a point about the LPGA Tour or women's golf.

But Diaz said there can't help but be some carryover.

"When fans come and they watch us play, I think they're going to see that all of the women can play," Diaz said. "It's just incredible what she did. Playing in front of that many people and playing so well, it's just awesome. I have a feeling we're going to see those crowds this week."

Indeed, advance ticket sales for the Kellogg-Keebler Classic are up 50 percent, and a large crowd is expected for Sorenstam's appearance in Thursday's pro-am.

AP

Tiger ends hibernation after Masters

DUBLIN, Ohio—A man and his young son waited on the first tee at Muirfield Village Golf Club before the sun could climb over the tree tops and start burning off the morning fog. Rumor had it that Tiger Woods was playing on the PGA Tour again.

Long time no see.

The Memorial is the first time Woods has played on the PGA Tour since the Masters, and so much has changed in six weeks.

For one thing, he's not the sole talk of the tournament. There remains a lingering buzz over Annika Sorenstam playing in the Colonial last week. It was so compelling that Woods said he watched the entire first round at his home in Florida.

"I thought she played beautifully," he said.

The other big change is the pecking order on the PGA Tour money list. For the first time in four years, Woods is no longer at the top this deep into the season.

Despite winning three times, including a World Golf Championship, Woods is No. 3 behind Davis Love III and Masters champion Mike Weir.

Maybe that's a good sign. The last time Woods trailed anyone on the money list in May was in 1999. He won the Memorial, finished off the season with four straight victories and hasn't been threatened since.

Don't get the idea he's worried. Woods sees the season as being only four months old, not five months from being over.

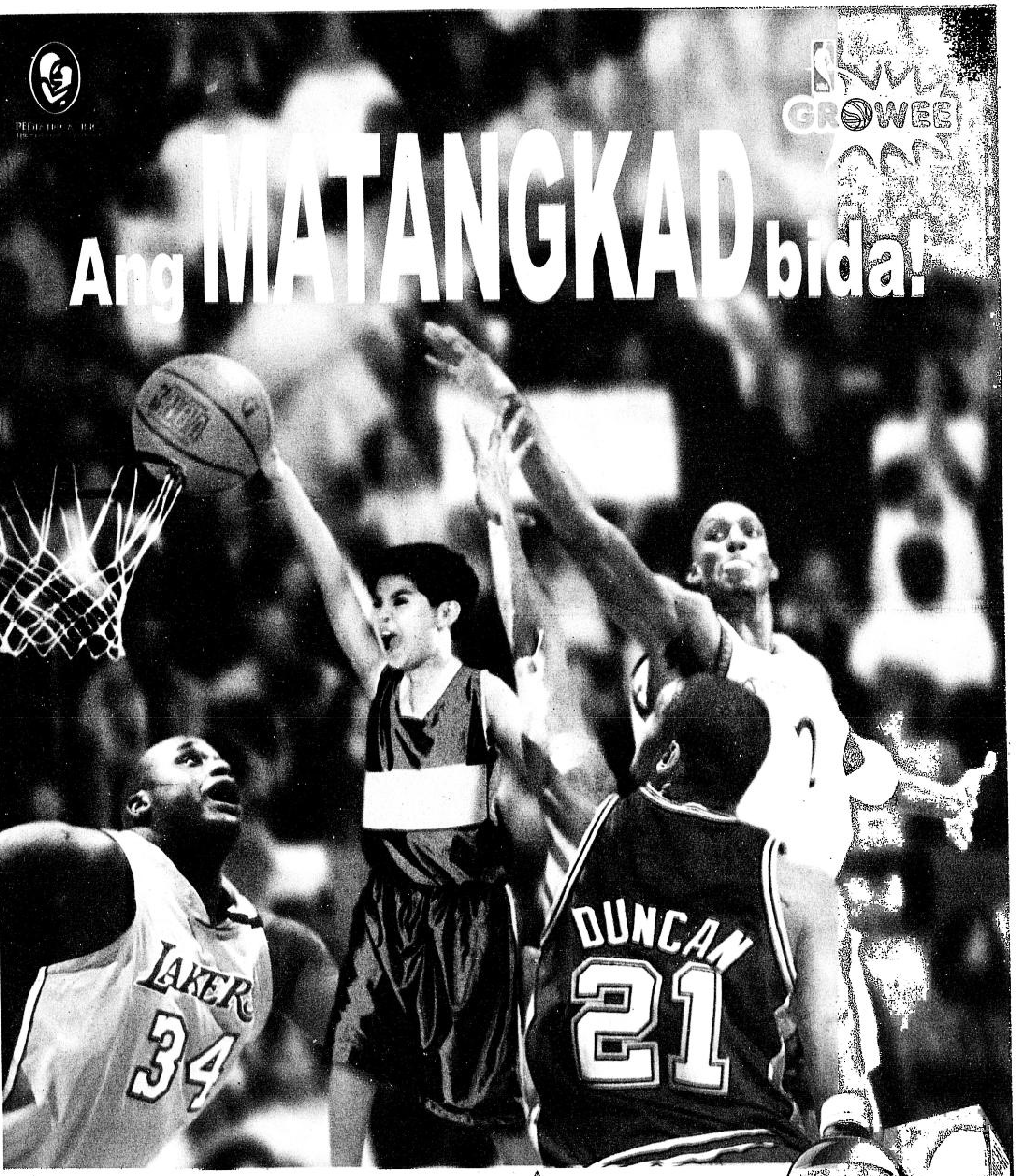
"I look at the fact that I've only played in six tournaments," Woods said. "That's the positive side. Now I can play more and see how I am after the summer."

He returned to competition two weeks ago at the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany, where he struggled on bumpy greens and tied for 29th. It was the first time he has finished out of the top 10 in a non-PGA Tour event.

The Memorial, which he won three straight times before the streak ended last year, is the last time he will play before the US Open at Olympia Fields. Woods has never played such a limited schedule between the first two majors.

Woods hasn't had a top-10 finish in his last three starts, dating to his 11-stroke victory at the Bay Hill Invitational.

AP



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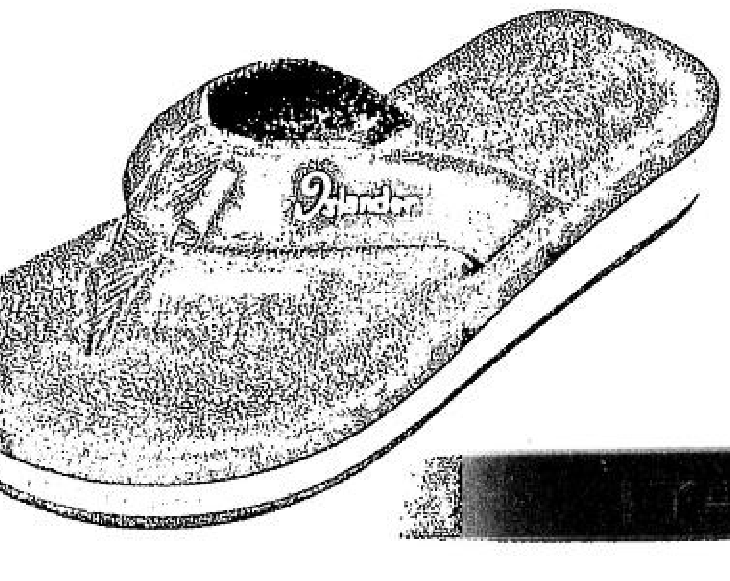

Islander
Kapal ng orig, tibay ng orig!

ALL-ITALIAN PENALTY SHOOTOUT

AC Milan is king of Champions Cup

SEA OF RED: AC Milan players celebrate with the trophy after defeating Juventus in the Champions League final as red confetti dominate the background. Insets show AC Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko celebrating with Brazilian goalkeeper Dida after scoring the winning goal, and Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon crying after losing in the penalty shootout.

MANCHESTER, England—Juventus may be the record-breaking Italian champion.

AC Milan is Italy's king of the Champions Cup.

Andriy Shevchenko stroked home the winning spot kick as Milan won its sixth Champions Cup title on Wednesday by beating Juventus 3-2 in a penalty shootout after a 0-0 tie in extra time.

Winner in 1963, '69, 89, 90 and '94, Milan edged the 27-time Serie A champion in a tense shootout in which five penalties were missed. Only Spain's Real Madrid with nine has won more titles.

Despite no goals in 120 minutes of soccer at a first ever all-Italian final, the atmosphere at Manchester United's Old Trafford was red hot as the match went into a penalty shootout in front of the Juve fans.

Juventus' French striker David Trezeguet was first up but his spot kick was saved by Dida. Serginio, Dida's Brazilian countryman, then put Milan 1-0 ahead.

Alessandro Birindelli hit the target for Juve and it stayed 1-1 as Clarence Seedorf, bidding to win the title with three different teams, saw his spot kick brilliant turned away by Gianluigi Buffon in the Juve goal.

Dida then saved from Uruguayan forward Marcelo Zalayeta but Buffon blocked a penalty from Kakha Kaladze with his legs.

Another Uruguayan, Juve defender Paolo Montero was next to miss as Dida again blocked his kick with his legs before Alessandro Nesta coolly fired his penalty past Buffon to put Milan 2-1 ahead.

Alessandro Del Piero made it 2-2 with a low shot and it was down to Shevchenko, the Ukrainian chasing his first major honor with the Rossoneri.

Facing the Juve fans, he took a long, confident run and drove the ball past Buffon before running to Dida so their could share their celebrations.

"I felt a lot of pressure when I moved to kick the decisive penalty," the Ukrainian said. "I tried to keep calm and win the duel with Buffon. I daren't miss it.

"It was the most important goal in my career, and my most important trophy ever," Shevchenko said. "For me it's a dream after a season plagued by injuries. It was a happy end. Now I feel exhausted."

Seedorf, the Dutch midfielder, who had previously won with Ajax Amsterdam in 1995 and Real Madrid in '98, was in tears after the game despite the latest of his triumphs–all achieved against Juventus.

"I'm so so happy, it's incredible, wonderful," an emotional Seedorf said before receiving his third winners medal. "The atmosphere, it has been a great spectacle.

"I think at the end we deserved to win. The whole championship, we did great, great job."

Milan captain Paolo Maldini, whose father lifted the same trophy 40 years ago at Wembley, collected his fourth winner medal in six finals.

"The joy for tonight's victory is unbelievable," he said. "It was a great emotion 13 years after my first successful final with AC Milan. It's my first Champions Cup as captain and it was the greatest emotion ever.

"I'm just really proud and happy to be the captain of the team. It's a dream come true in Manchester. It feels like it was the first time it's the sixth time but it feels like it is the first. I feel a deep joy.

"It is so beautiful. It is a great honor that the name Maldini is linked to AC Milan."

Milan's triumph also meant that coach Carlo Ancelotti had also won the title as a player and a manager.

"The joy, the satisfaction of winning the cup is the very same, as a player and as a coach. I think we deserved it," he said. *AP*

Tale of two cities: Agony and ecstasy

MILAN/TURIN—The city of Milan burst into spontaneous celebration after AC Milan won a dramatic Champions League final penalty shootout on Wednesday while a shroud of silence fell over Turin, home town of losing finalists Juventus.

Fans in both cities had crowded around huge screens and crammed into bars to watch the first all-Italian Champions League final but had to sit through more than two hours of goalless football before Milan triumphed 3-2 on spot kicks.

"I watched two dreadful halves, 30 minutes of nail-biting extra time and in one second of a nightmare shootout, my world has crashed around me," said Juventus fan Tomaso Rossi, who watched the match in Turin's central Piazza Castello.

But 140 km (88 miles) down the road, Milan fans forgot how they had clutched their temples every time Juventus attacked and predicted a golden era for their club, owned by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

"We're six-times European champions. Now we're going to win the World Championship, Serie A and the European Cup again.

Nobody can stop us," cried Riccardo Battaglia, hanging out of one of the hundreds of cars in a huge traffic jam.

Other fans decked Italy's financial capital in Milan's red and black flags and fired bright red flares into the balmy evening air. *Reuters*

Nike signs soccer prodigy for $1M

NEW YORK—He's not yet a soccer superstar like Brazil's Ronaldo or David Beckham of England, but Freddy Adu, a 13-year-old goal-scoring prodigy, has signed an endorsement contract with sportswear giant Nike Inc., his agent said on Wednesday.

The agent, Richard Motzkin, of SportsNet in Los Angeles, declined to say how much Adu's deal was worth, although newspaper reports have put it at $1 million to $1.5 million.

Nike, which last week signed 18-year-old high school basketball star LeBron James to an endorsement contract worth more than $90 million, confirmed the deal but declined further details.

"He is young and we are sensitive to that," said spokeswoman Celeste Alleyne, adding that the company had not yet mapped how it would use Adu.

The Nike deal is a precedent for any soccer player, let alone one so young, in a country where the world's most popular sport has a relatively low profile. Top Major League Soccer salaries rarely top $250,000–a fraction of what players can earn in England, Spain or Italy.

A native of Ghana, Adu came to the United States when he was eight and became a US citizen in February, when his mother won an immigration lottery. He has family in Potomac, Maryland where he lived until attending the US Under-17 academy in Bradenton, Florida. He attends a school there.

Since joining the team in January 2002, the speedy striker has scored 32 goals and added 21 assists in 60 games.

Adu has trained with the US national team but at the age of 13 is still some way off signing a professional contract with Major League Soccer or with a club elsewhere.

On Monday, the five-foot-eight, 140-pound striker scored a goal for the United States Under-17 team in a 3-2 friendly international victory over Costa Rica.

In its report of Monday's Under-17 match against Costa Rica in Lancaster, California, the US Soccer Federation said Adu's goal came "after finishing off a beautiful dribbling showcase." "Freddy is a very exciting, young talent with incredible potential," said Motzkin. "At this time, it is important to provide Freddy with the right structure and atmosphere to allow him to continue to grow and develop as a soccer player and person." A spokeswoman for SportsNet said Adu was focusing on the Under-17 Fifa-World Youth Championship in Finland in August.

After that he was looking forward to representing the United States in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. *Reuters*

GOAL SCORING prodigy Freddy Adu: Exciting young talent. AP

Everything that could go wrong did for Juventus

MANCHESTER, England—Everything that could go wrong did go wrong for Juventus in their Champions League final defeat by AC Milan, coach Marcello Lippi complained on Wednesday.

Juventus were hit before the match by the suspension of Pavel Nedved, their most gifted player, and matters went from bad to worse as defender Igor Tudor was forced off in the first half because of injury.

Juve managed to hold their Italian rivals to a goalless draw over the 120 minutes but lost 3-2 on penalties as they ran out of gas and several players opted out of taking the spot kicks.

"It's not that they refused, more that they didn't feel like it," Lippi told reporters with a shrug.

"Players have their feelings. You can't push them if they just don't feel like it." It was a third defeat in four finals with Juventus for Lippi and it left the level-headed coach blaming this latest disappointment on fate.

"What can I say? It went terribly badly," said Lippi.

"Everything went wrong for us, from the injuries and suspension onwards.

"I'm just so disappointed. Everyone was so tired and we didn't have the fuel in the tank to take the opportunities that presented themselves.

"It was an ill-starred night for us." The absence of Nedved was always going to be difficult to overcome after the Czech contributed so much to the side's run to the final.

"We didn't have him to provide the sort of quality you need," Lippi said.

"In this sort of match you need players of the highest quality but the top quality players weren't there for us." Juventus started the penalty shootout badly, with David Trezeguet's weak effort easily saved by Dida.

Alessandro Birindelli brought Juve back into the match with a successful strike but Marcelo Zalayeta and Paolo Montero missed theirs, leaving Alessandro Del Piero needing to score to keep the match alive.

Del Piero kept his cool to make it 2-2 but Andriy Shevchenko made no mistake with the final penalty to hand the trophy to Milan. *Reuters*

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A28

1. False (Fillies-young female horses-can compete, too)
2. Australia
3. Fair and Square
4. 'Boots and Saddles'
5. Laffit Pincay, Jr.
6. $13 million
7. Upset

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A ticket for Ate Glo, please

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DON'T know what was on the fellow's mind when he brought forth the idea about Crispa and Toyota reliving their historic encounters in an exhibition match set for tonight at the Cubao Big Dome.

Any comment?

OK, listen up.

Off the cuff, I'd say he must be either a genius or a nut. A genius because the idea is so great it could not have come from someone who swaggers around and goes by the nickname Noli. A nut because how crazier can one get pushing for a game that is tailor-made for 30 and below and yet, in this dream game of his, the protagonists would be close to being called senior citizens?

I am applauding, as I will also applaud the minute the ball is tossed for the jump ball this evening.

Either the game could become a serious comedy or hilariously funny. Either way, it could not have come at a better time, when the country is reeling from both nature-caused turbulence and man-made violence. Sports is a time-tested anesthesia, capable of numbing the nation's senses if only for a fleeting moment to camouflage the pain and suffering of the people torn by civil war and poverty.

Will somebody please send GMA a ticket to the greatest show about to unfurl this side of the globe? Ate Glo could learn a thing or two about how not to be serious 23 hours 59 seconds a day.

To be sure, you won't see board-shattering dunks, daredevil fastbreaks, or even the fancy crossover or under-the-leg dribbles. Those were stuff of another era.

I've been part of that era. I've seen it roar, seen its razzle-dazzle, seen the magnificence of how a shot is fired the proper way. Wrote about it from the days of Jesus Christ, Superstar to the days of Mario Puzo's Godfather classics.

But alas, tonight there will be none of that anymore. Only a dust-covered frame of snippets of what was once a glorious past of our basketball heritage. Woe to those who haven't been around then.

Atoy Co with the fadeaway shot. Who could top that, much less, duplicate that?

Freddie Hubalde with the undergoal stab. Only Danny Florencio, the Toyota Corolla stalled by work in San Francisco, could beat that.

Abet Guidaben with the bank shot anchored on an impeccable pivot move. Unbeatable.

Ramon Fernanez with the elegant shot that was the envy of a PBA visitor from the NBA, the legendary Nate Archibald.

Bogs Adornado with the most perfect jump shot of all time. Anyone trying to copy that is yet to be born.

And, yes, tell me, have you seen a home-grown real tank barrel his way to the hoop with all the brute finesse of a Charles Barkley? He is none other than Robert Jaworski, now senator of the republic.

Ah, those were the days my friend, and I thought they'd never end: But as George Harrison sang it, "All things must pass." Even the good ones.

The Crispa Redmanizers will win tonight simply because Crispa, as always, has the deeper bench than Toyota. That's for sure. But after the game, I have one request: A drug test for all the players.

You know damn well that if Crispa should lose, some jerk could have pulled our leg or something. Thus, the drug test is a must. Now, if everybody's clean, no need to look far. Line up the referees. Next, tell the guy seated next to you, "Seems like old times, pal?"

There couldn't be a more apt ending than that. And Ate Glo would have the time of her life.

***

FASTBREAK. I am as surprised as Jun Limpot when I was told he was among those allegedly found positive for banned drugs. Jun, who has struck me all these years as a wholesome kid (he is married to a member of the great Escudero clan), has contested the findings. If he should call on the NBI, or any private entity at all for that matter, to do the retesting of his urine sample, I'd welcome that with no questions asked. But if I was surprised by this turn of events, I was more shocked than surprised to see PBA Commissioner Eala doing the announcement about Limpot and five other players being found guilty of substance abuse. Eala appeared on TV more like the cop who nabbed the suspects, the prosecutor prosecuting the cases and the judge finally handing out the decision than a PBA bigwig wearing the holy crown of transparency. If this were a company investigating some payroll scam, Eala would be the company president, chief accountant and internal auditor rolled into one. Eala, for all the stature of the position that he carries, should have delegated that job to a subaltern, like his media man Willie Marcial maybe. Some people just won't grow up.

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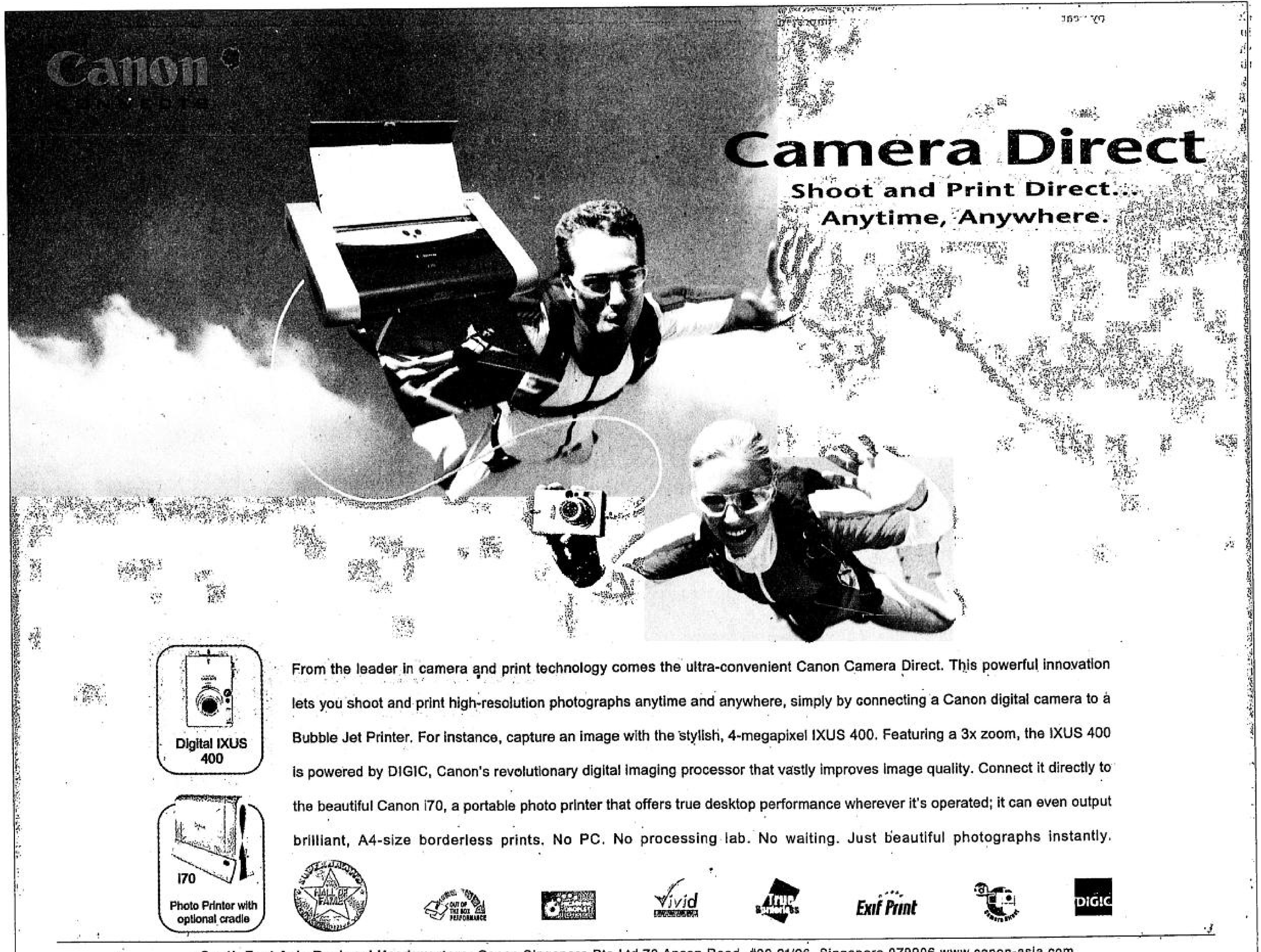

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SPORTS

Palawan teener reaches ring finals

By Dennis U. Eroa

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Dick Varron and Neil Postolero of the Air Force barged into the finals but a charming hometown girl drew the biggest cheer Wednesday night in the National Open amateur boxing championships at the Puerto Princesa Gym here.

Varron beat Zohary Rosia in the tiebreak, 98-70, and reached the flyweight finals against Navyman Aristeo Gora, who stopped Baguio City's Aris Somodio in the fourth round.

Postolero was even more impressive as he knocked out Ryan Enova of Camarines Norte in the second round to seal a showdown for the light welterweight gold against Ronnie Masicapo of Puerto Princesa.

But the spotlight fell on Josie Gabuco, a fair-complexioned, 16-year-old, who engaged the favored Rodalla Flores of Baguio City in a slugfest and received a standing ovation from the partisan crowd as she emerged winner, 54-48.

The last girl standing from the Palawan Amateur Boxing Association advanced to the pinweight finals against a much tougher foe, national team member Noemi Pe-Keng also of Baguio City.

Pe-Keng, shorter but definitely stronger, pummeled Arlene Torrecer of Puerto Princesa City, 42-23, as women's boxing proved a crowd-pleaser in this week-long tournament sanctioned by the Abap and sponsored by the Palawan

provincial government headed by Gov. Joel T. Reyes.

"My face is already numb from Rodalla's punches. But she needs to knock me out to stop me from fighting. I'll never surrender," said Gabuco, a former track and field star from the Palawan High School.

Urged by her provincemates, Gabuco, tired but determined, held her ground in the face of Flores' all-out attack and gained the nod of the jury by jarring the Baguio bet with right and left straights to the face.

"Josie's a rare find. Given the right training and exposure, she can put Palawan not only in the country's boxing map, but on the international scene as well," said Gov. Reyes, who promised cash incentives to Palawan medal winners.

Alice Kate Aparri salvaged some measure of pride for Baguio when she beat Palawan's Lea Antonio, 55-22, to enter the lightflyweight finals.

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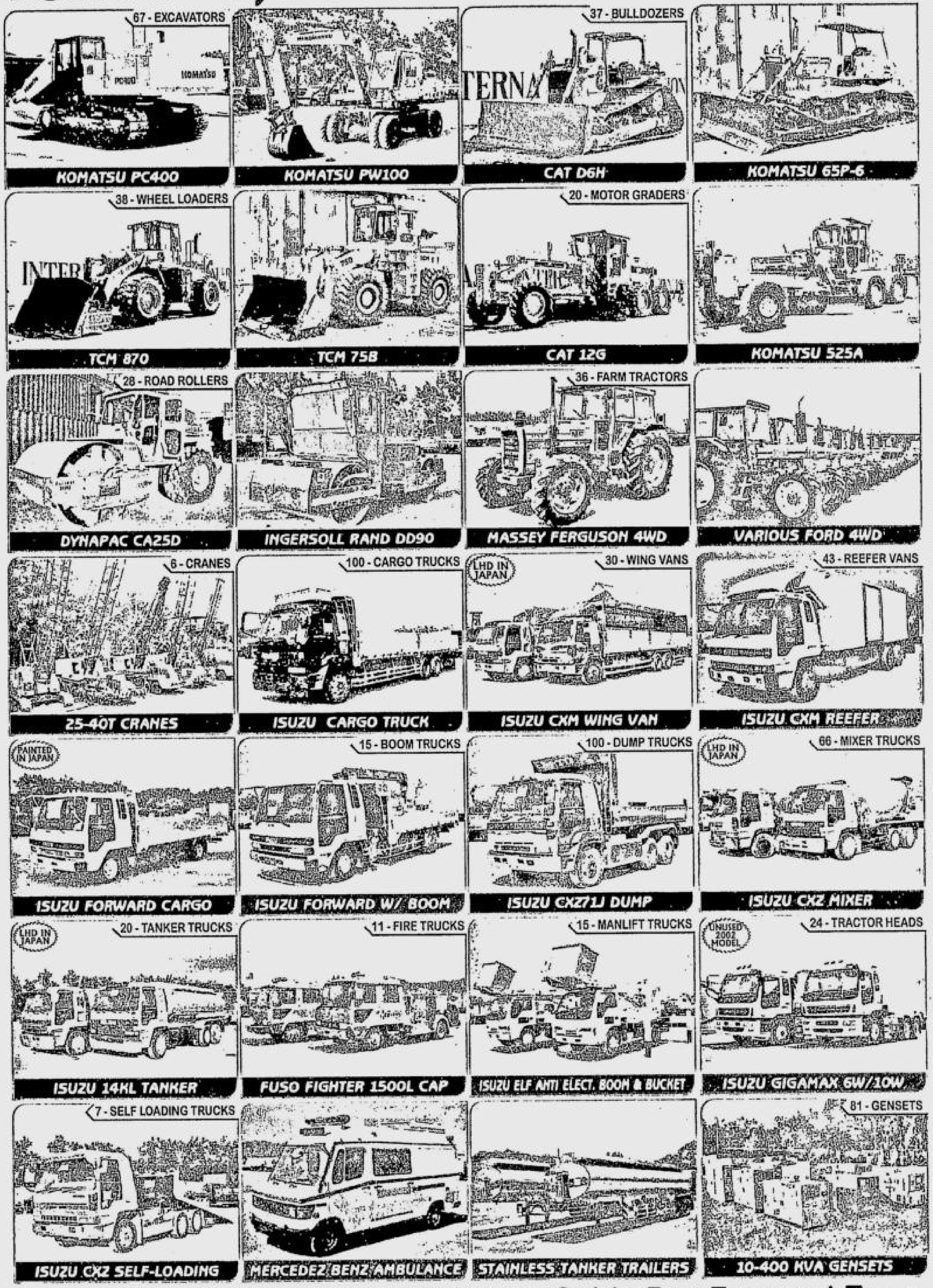
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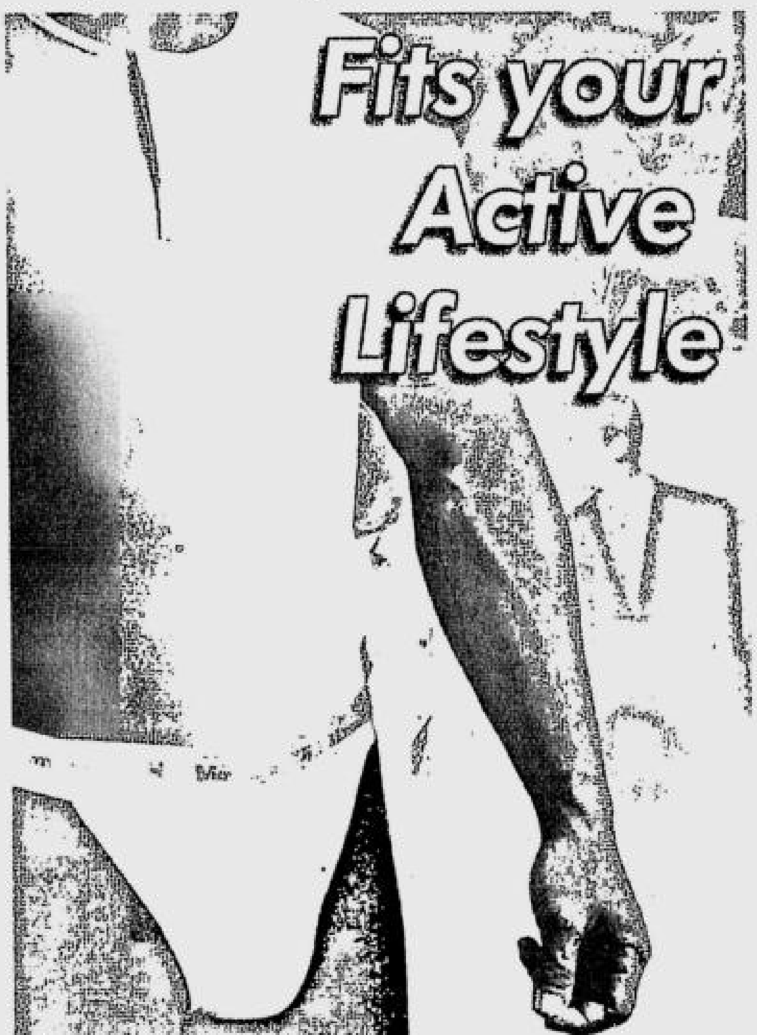
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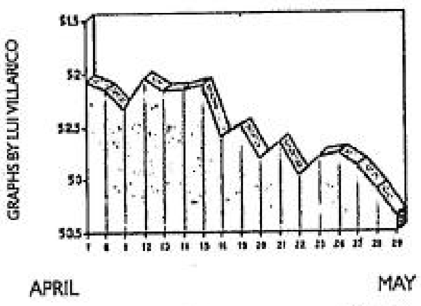

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks up on bargain hunting

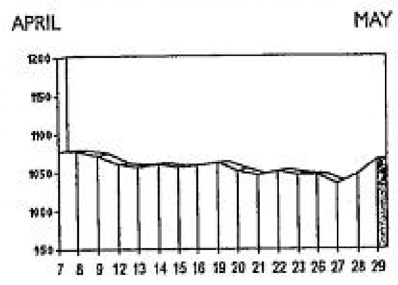
SHARES bounced over one percent higher yesterday, as bargain hunters continued to accumulate large caps still viewed as undervalued at current levels, traders said.

They added the first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data, while no surprise, helped reassure investors that the economy was on target to achieve the government's full year target of 4.2 to 5.2 percent growth.

The main index closed up 18.65 points, or 1.78 percent, at 1,066.47, its highest finish for two weeks. Turnover picked up to P460.12 million from P266.39 million on Wednesday.

"The gains were mainly technical in nature, with many large cap stocks bought as they are still viewed as offering value at these levels," Equitiworld Securities broker Emmanuel Soler said. ***Reuters***

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the country has regained the investor confidence it had previously lost due to factors like the conflict in the South that were perceived to have made the economic climate here unattractive.

According to Neri, the first quarter of the year showed positive signs that indicated investments would be growing for the rest of the year.

He cited the growth in the purchase of durable equipment during the first three months of the year, which stood at 10.2 percent. "It (expenditure for durable equipment) posted its highest growth so far, and it showed that private sector confidence has again built up," Neri said during the sidelights of the first-quarter report on the Philippine economy held yesterday at the National Statistical Coordination Board.

The country's chief economic manager added that aside from the growth in durable equipment expenditure, the increase in private sector construction, which was at 25.1 percent, further indicated the strengthening of investor confidence.

The 25.1-percent growth was a turnaround from the previous year's 1.7-percent contraction.

Growth in expenditure for durable equipment, which are used as capital goods, and in private sector construction, mean that either existing businesses are expanding, or new firms are investing in the country.

The Neda chief said the possible growth in investor confidence was also marked by an increase in the number of companies registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Neri said one possible reason for the increased confidence in the country's investment climate was the government's efforts to curb red tape.

"Another could be the fact that our economic managers have had a very steady commitment (to improve the economy) despite external problems such as the US-Iraq war," Neri said.

Neri added that the President, in particular, has been firm in her policy of improving the domestic economy, especially in times when external conditions seemed volatile.

He earlier said the stance the government had taken was to lessen dependence on the export sector as a source of growth, and instead focus on improving the domestic climate to avoid a possible huge impact of the negative developments from outside.

The increase in private sector spending was considered a major contributor to the country's gross domestic product growth for the first quarter of the year, which stood at 4.5 percent.

The growth figure was higher than last year's 3.8 percent and was at the high end of the government's forecast of 4 to 4.5 percent.

Gov't uncovers ₱600M in unremitted privatization funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has uncovered P600 million worth of privatization proceeds not yet remitted by some state-owned asset disposition agencies.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto told reporters yesterday that the government had identified P600 million worth of idle cash in the books of government agecies which handled the privatization of certain state assets in the past.

He said the government would speed up the collection of the privatization proceeds from assets already sold in the past, noting that some agencies were too slow in remitting the funds.

Among the agencies which are responsible for the disposition of state-owned assets are the Asset Privatization Trust, now known as Privatization Management Office, and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which handles assets sequestered after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

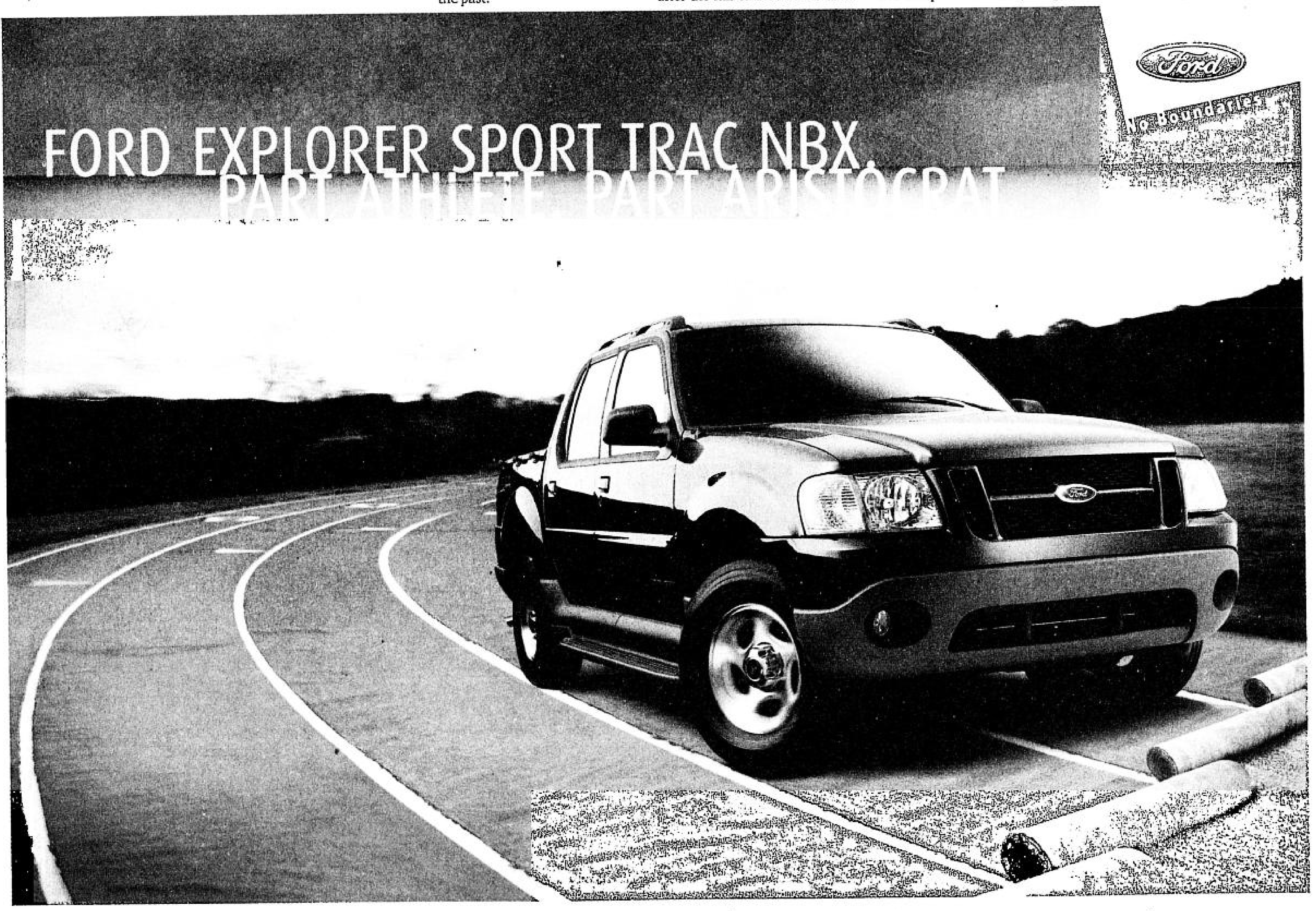
Once the government is able to collect these unremitted funds, it will be able to cover 60 percent of its P1-billion targeted privatization proceeds for 2003—without scrambling to sell new assets at a discount.

"In this environment of weak market sentiment, imaginative solutions are required," Recto said.

In the case of the privatization of Philippine Phosphate and Fertilizer Corp. (Philphos), which was completed in 2001, the government was able to collect the P1 billion in privatization proceeds only last year.

Nevertheless, governments efforts to privatize assets are continuing. Among the assets to be put on the block this year are: the Food Terminal Inc. complex, Philippine National Construction Corp., and the Makati property where the International School is located.

Recto said the government would soon tap a financial adviser to help with the privatization of the FTI complex in Taguig.



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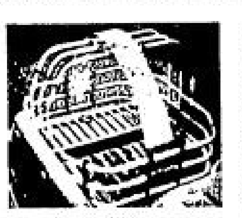

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Extension work seen driving growth of agricultural sector

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

IN A Senate hearing last year, Senator Edgardo Angara pointed out that in the 1990s, the population increased by 2.4 percent while agriculture grew by only 2.1 percent. This meant that we could not produce enough food for our growing population.

Thankfully, in the previous two years, the growth rate almost doubled that of the 1990s. It was 4.0 percent in 2001 and 3.5 percent in 2002 despite a long dry spell in many areas last year. A big factor that caused this dramatic improvement, I believe, was the way agriculture extension work was managed.

Background

The first question that should be addressed is why agriculture growth was only 2.1 percent in the 1990s. A suggested explanation is that agriculture extension work was not properly handled. In 1991, the Local Government Code was enacted. It stipulated that the 17,000 Department of Agriculture (DA) extension personnel would be devolved to the Local Government Units (LGUs). Henceforth, they would report to their respective governors and mayors and no longer to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

There occurred a significant divide between the devolved extension workers and the DA. In the 1970s and 1980s, there was unity of command under the DA. Extension workers also had the single-minded objective of agriculture development. With the devolution in the 1990s, these workers would sometimes be used for non-agricultural purposes by those governors and mayors who did not appreciate agriculture.

In those provinces where provincial and municipal agricultural development plans were formulated, these plans were often independent of each other. The DA, for its part, retained the bulk of the agricultural development budget and had its own plan. But it no longer had the influence on the now devolved extension workers to properly carry out its plan.

Three changes

In 2001 and 2002, these changes were initiated to help address the problems:

1. Recognition of the LGU's role. The role of the LGU as the leader in agricultural development, instead of the DA, was explicitly acknowledged in a revised Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the DA and the provincial governors. Though this was the spirit of the Local Government Code, DA personnel in many places were not consulting the LGUs sufficiently on the use of the DA resources. The new MOU stipulated that the LGUs would lead and set the agriculture direction for the province, while the DA would support this direction.

2. Integrated provincial and municipal plans. Three-day live-in workshops were conducted in each province, where provincial and municipal action officers formulated and integrated their agriculture development plans. Special attention was given to linking the LGUs with the DA.

3. Performance-based incentives. Following the successful models of Region II and X under Regional Executive Directors Gomer Lasam and Rufo Chan respectively, the incentive system giving the same monthly amount to each extension worker was changed to one based on performance. Extension workers would get incentives commensurate to their performance, with the best getting as much as 300 percent of the average incentive level. These additional incentives are made possible from the savings obtained from those who did not get 100 percent of the incentive.

Recommendations

It is recommended that more work be done in the areas that showed success in making extension work more effective.

1. Increase the leadership role of the LGUs, including recommending the optimal usage of DA resources. This should be done with the legally mandated Provincial and Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Councils, where farmers, fisher folk, NGOs, business and other appropriate government agencies are represented.

2.Conduct annual provincial live-in workshops focused on action, integration and teamwork. This should include LGU officials, the provincial and municipal agricultural officers, the DA and the agricultural research centers.

3. Implement a comprehensive and transparent incentive system based on performance targets consistent with the integrated agricultural development plans.

With the above recommendations, the 17,000 extension workers can be more effectively harnessed. Then we can be assured that our agriculture growth rate will be much higher than our population rate, and that we can properly feed the nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative and former Undersecretary of the DA and DTI and Chair/Secretary of the Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

ABS-CBN airtime revenue hits ₱4B

By Elena R. Torrijos

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., controlled largely by the Lopez family, yesterday said it had generated P1 billion in gross airtime revenue in May, bringing up total airtime revenue in the first five months to P4.2 billion, or 23 percent higher than year-ago level.

In a briefing with reporters following the company's annual stockholders meeting yesterday, ABS-CBN chair and chief executive Eugenio Lopez III attributed the higher revenue to increased advertising from brand consumer giants such as San Miguel Corp. and Unilever.

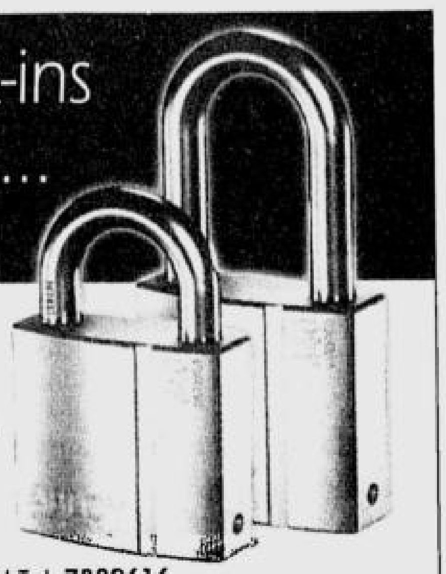
The revenue figures do not include earnings of the company's cinema, records and international businesses.

Recent films produced and released by the group such as Till There Was You were big hits.

With the income of the other businesses included, ABS-CBN may have achieved P5 billion in total revenue in the first five months of this year, a company official said.

Lopez said the company would likely post higher profit in the second quarter compared with last year's level.

In the meantime, ABS-CBN stockholders approved the change of the company's purpose to allow it to engage in real estate development.



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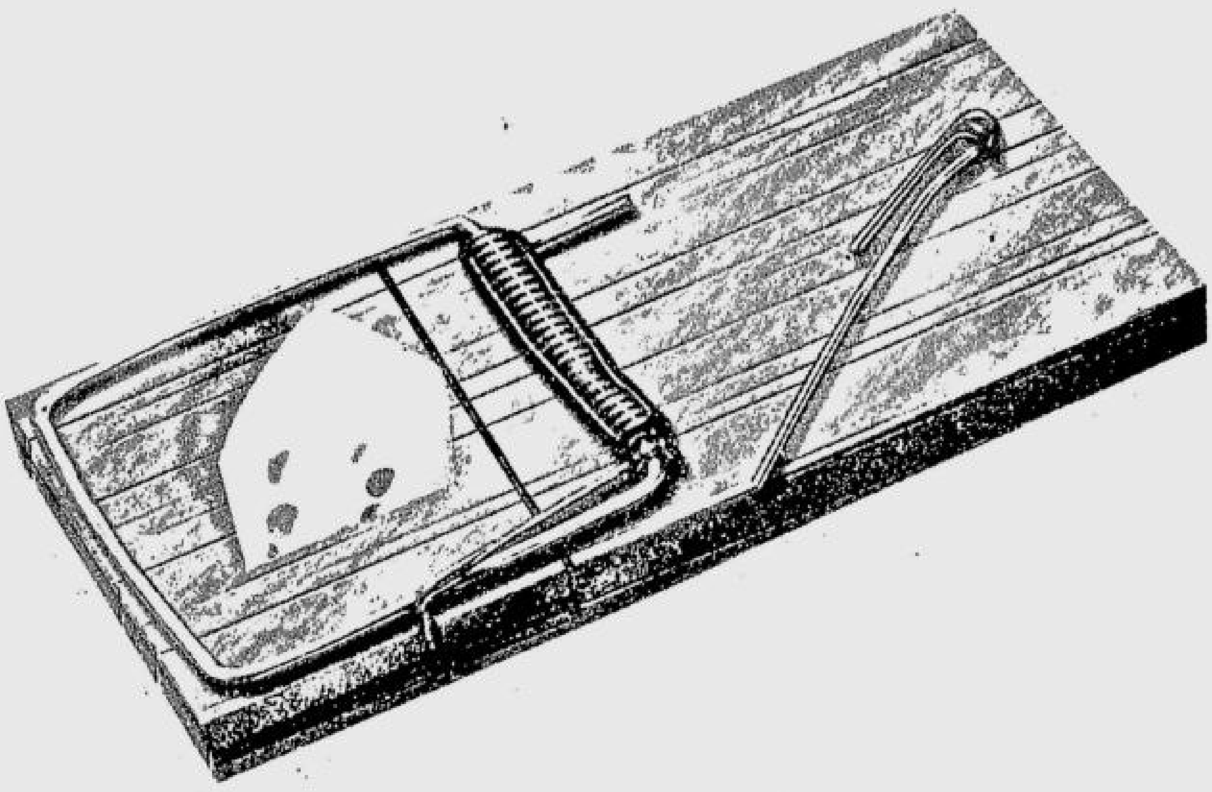

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US company invests $3M to expand call center facility in Cebu

By Abigail L. Ho

SYKES Asia Inc. has invested another $3 million for a new call center facility in Mandaue, Cebu, that aims to serve as a complementary site for its existing customers as well as a facility for potential clients.

In yesterday's briefing announcing Sykes' partnership with Siemens Pte. Ltd., Sykes vice president and managing director for Asia and Pacific rim Michael Henderson said the new facility would initially have 175 seats. It has a capacity of 750 seats.

"We believe there will be a lot of interest in Cebu," he said.

He said Cebu was a good place to house a "disaster recovery facility" for Sykes' clients as it was far enough from Manila and had infrastructure good enough to support call center operations.

Also, Cebu had an "untapped labor pool" that Sykes could take advantage of, being the first call center to expand to that part of the country.

The Cebu facility is currently on the "testing phase" although it is already open to clients who wish to have a look at the call center and probably get a number of seats there.

Apart from the one in Cebu, Sykes also has three other call centers here in the Philippines: two in Makati and one in Ortigas.

Henderson disclosed that the US-based call center had already invested around $15 million for infrastructure in its four call centers here.

RP inks deal on $52-M irrigation project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT has signed a memorandum of agreement with American firm World Water Corp. and the US Eximbank to build the $52-million, solar-powered irrigation system nationwide.

The accord was signed during the state visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

The irrigation project targets upland areas in Luzon and Mindanao that cannot be reached by irrigation water pumped from common irrigation systems from the lowlands.

In another interview, NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras said the National Economic and Development Authority has approved the agency's plan to build modern irrigation pumps powered by the sun's energy.

The US Trade and Development Agency is currently studying the feasibility of this project, he said.

"The USTDA will partly finance the feasibility study of this project amounting to P300,000. The rest of the funding will come from WorldWater Corp.," Paras said.

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WARRANTY

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 29, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de oro Univ. Bank	15.25	16	15.25	16	70,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36	38	36	38	1,629,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.25	25	24.25	25	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	25	25.5	1,666,100
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	21	21	92,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	4,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
Security Bank Corp.	10	10	10	10	110,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	8,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.4	0.41	0.4	.4	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1420	1410	1420	2,720
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1040	1035	1040	2,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12	13.25	12	13.25	74,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.73	0.7	.73	4,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	590	570	590	190,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	.039	2,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	.3	1,600,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	425	432.5	425	432.5	259,860
Philweb Corp. .	110	0.012	0.011	0.012	7,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	125,000
Manila Electric Co. B	8.8	9.1	8.7	9.1	529,000
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.84	7,328,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.52	1.58	1.52	1.58	1,625,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.42	263,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	28,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	.43	170,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	.75	900,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	152,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	125,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	636,100
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.68	.7	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	53.5	54	51,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63.5	63.5	29,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.15	307,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	894,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	250	0.025	0.025	.025	2,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	6000	0.6	0.6	.6	50,000
APC Group Inc.	525	0.0525	0.05	.05	1,600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	265,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2450	0.27	0.24	.26	5,020,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	725	0.0725	0.0725	.0725	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	1600	0.16	0.16	.16	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1900	0.19	0.19	0.19	120,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	50,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	7.3	7.6	7.2	7.4	198,000
House of Investments Inc.	4800	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	3,000
Megaworld Corp.	5600	0.56	0.56	0.56	520,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	1650	0.17	0.16	.17	1,020,000
Music Corp.	2900	0.3	0.29	.3	80,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	1050	0.105	0.105	0.105	380,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	2600	0.26	0.26	0.26	280,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.72	1.6	1.72	102,000
Pryce Corp.	1150	0.115	0.115	.115	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	4000	0.42	0.4	.42	1,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	3200	0.33	0.32	0.32	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3000	0.32	0.3	0.31	400,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	62,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	3300	0.33	0.33	.33	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.75	13.25	11.75	13.25	247,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	10,000
Far Eastern University	475	475	475	475	150
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	8,125,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	1200	0.12	0.12	.12	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	1500	0.15	0.15	0.15	250,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	5000	0.5	0.5	.5	70,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	7800	0.82	0.78	.82	7,460,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties.	500	0.05	0.05	.05	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1400	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	217,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.65	4.75	2,964,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial .	30	0.003	0.003	.003	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	630,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,300,000
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	.27	200,000

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

Office of the Governor

Memorandum to All Banks and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Concerned

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 468 dated 27 March 2003, Item F of the Memorandum to All Banks and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Concerned dated 17 February 2003 prescribing the guidelines for the issuance of unsecured subordinated debt (USD) eligible as Tier 2 (supplementary) capital under items b.b.1(8) and b.b.2(1), Subsection X116.1 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MOR) is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"F. ISSUANCE OVERSEAS OF UNSECURED SUBORDINATED DEBT

The overseas issuance of USD shall also be subject to the provisions of this memorandum, except for the following:

1. Overseas issuance of unsecured subordinated debt (USD) may be allowed to be governed by the laws and applicable rules and regulations of the country where the USD is to be issued with respect to form, qualified investors/buyers and subsequent sale or negotiation;
2. The requirements under Items A.c.i, E.3.f and E.3.g may be allowed to be dispensed with in cases of overseas issuance of USD; and
3. The subsequent sale/negotiation in the Philippines of USDs originally issued overseas shall not be allowed unless all the requirements for domestic issuance are complied with.

It is however understood that the applicant/issuer shall also secure the approval of the International Operations Department (IOD) of the BSP for the overseas issuance of foreign currency denominated USD."

This Memorandum shall take effect after 15 days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

FOR THE MONETARY BOARD:

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA**
Governor

20 May 2003

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of June 30 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

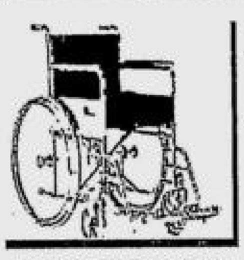
A. BROWN Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 2 p.m. at the Xavier Sports and Country Club, Cagayan de Oro City. Stockholders as of May 31 will be entitled to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

May 29, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 29-May-03 (%)	MART1 28-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.15	7.1058
3 Months	7.1346	7.0788
6 Months	7.6692	7.6212
1 Year	8.2271	8.1625
2 Years	8.8769	8.8596
3 Years	9.7481	9.7583
4 Years	10.3542	10.3479
5 Years	10.8019	10.8346
7 Years	11.3292	11.3709
10 Years	11.5211	11.5135
20 Years	12.0704	12.1225
25 Years	12.625	12.7673

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR



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CEBU 262-32-39
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-10-93
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

CURRENCIES

May 29, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.849834	1.000000	53.028000
Japan	Yen	0.007165	0.008431	0.447100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.393813	1.640100	86.971200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108977	0.128233	6.799900
Switzerland	Franc	0.655889	0.771784	40.926200
Canada	Dollar	0.613776	0.722230	38.298400
Singapore	Dollar	0.489959	0.576535	30.572500
Australia	Dollar	0.551446	0.648887	34.409200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.254382	2.652731	140.669000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226617	0.266660	14.140400
Brunei	Dollar	0.488551	0.574878	30.484600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000121	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020336	0.023929	1.268900
UAE	Dirham	0.231392	0.272279	14.438400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.176700	62.398000
ArgentinaPeso	0.295594	0.347826	18.444500	
Brazil	REAL	0.281682	0.331455	17.576400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134659	0.158453	8.402400
India	Rupee	0.018128	0.021331	1.131100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223670	0.263193	13.956600
Mexico	New Peso	0.082087	0.096592	5.122100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488747	0.575109	30.496900
Norway	Kroner	0.126760	0.149158	7.909600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014762	0.017370	0.921100
South Africa	Rand	0.103703	0.122027	6.470800
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000833	0.044200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109406	0.128738	6.826700
Syria	Pound	0.020235	0.023810	1.262600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024554	0.028893	1.532100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000533	0.000627	0.033200

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PS-62B (5.0 kg.)

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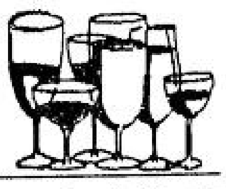

Victor C. Agustin

POOR Maurice Arcache.

The society columnist-talk show host lost his column in Favorite Publisher's newspaper after Arcache drew up Metro Manila's "100 most invited list" in this month's issue of Philippine Tatler, the society magazine.

Arcache made the singular mistake of identifying couple Alex and Marixi Prieto, the principal owners of the INQUIRER, whom Arcache listed number five out of the 100 most-sought guests, as controlling the "most influential and most widely read newspaper in the country."

This description got Favorite Publisher, who got wind of the offending description while he was still in the United States, so steamed up that the first thing he did when he returned was to cancel Arcache's column yesterday and replace it with Johnny Litton's.

According to the grapevine, the lady editors of Arcache are still trying to placate Favorite Publisher, saying that although the Tatler article was bylined under Arcache, it was actually Tatler editor Anton San Diego who co-wrote the article and supplied the descriptive.

This is not the first time that Favorite Publisher blew his top over such characterization of his competition.

Political analyst Antonio Abaya also lost his column years ago after he made passing reference about the INQUIRER having the biggest circulation among the broadsheet dailies.

And to think that Abaya was thrashing the INQUIRER and defending Favorite Publisher's newspaper in the very same column!

Belgian Malinois

IT looks like new Belgian ambassador Christiane Tanghe would rather tough it out rather than pay rent to his landlord, TV station owner Atom Henares.

According to the grapevine, Tanghe's lawyer, Accra's Rogelio Vinluan, told Henares to his face that the ambassador has diplomatic immunity and that, therefore, the breach of contract suit filed by Henares would not prosper.

Vinluan's position is, of course, being vigorously disputed by Henares counsel Enrique Belo.

Tanghe was supposed to have paid one-year advance lease last December, but instead sent word to his landlord that he was breaking the lease because he found the Dasmariñas Village residence, which he inherited from the previous ambassador, beneath his standards.

Henares, in turn, said the Belgian embassy would have to pay the penalty clause if the new ambassador decides to break the contract, which incidentally is good up to end-2003.

According to the grapevine, Tanghe found out that his embassy had no extra budget for such a contingency and, therefore, decided to stay on at the Dasma address, despite his discomfiture, considering that there is only about half a year left in the lease.

In the meantime, for having leaked the dispute to the press, Henares would have to dangle and twist waiting for his rent money, which most probably would come at the end of the year.

Sightings

- IF you see a heavyset mestizo scooting up in a blue Maserati coupe in Forbes Park or in Tagaytay during the weekends, that is most likely Arturo Rocha of CF Sharp reliving his adventurous youth days in his new $200,000-toy.
- REP Florencio Abad was in Seattle last week as guest of Microsoft's Bill Gates. Microsoft apparently got wind of Abad's plan to set up a science/computer school in his island-province of Batanes, and decided to invite the congressman for

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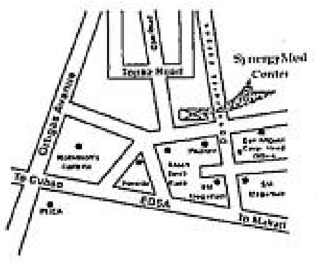

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PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 27, 2003	Last Week May 20, 2003
Bond Fund	1.07604	1.06808
Managed Fund	1.03993	1.03743

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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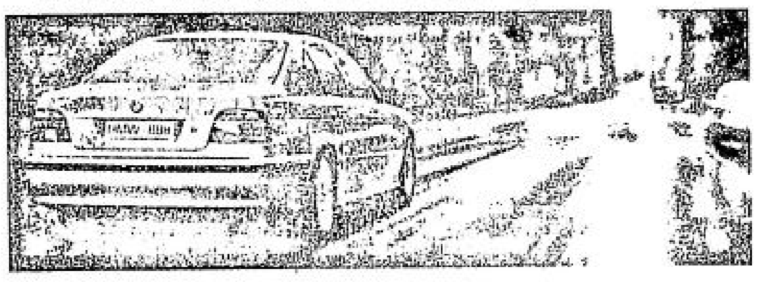

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BMW 318i Limousine 2002, Black Sapphire, 4,500 kms, P1,875,000 **Now P1,800,000**
BMW 318i Limousine 2002, Silver, 4,500 kms, P1,875,000 **Now P1,800,000**
BMW 318i M Sport 2002, Titanium Silver, 8,400 kms, P2,050,000 **Now P1,800,000**
BMW 325i Exec. 2002, Green, 9,688 kms, P2,400,000 **Now P2,280,000**
BMW 325i Lt. Ed. 2002, Black Sapphire, 10,447 kms, P2,400,000 **Now P2,280,000**
BMW 325i Exec. 2002, Titanium Silver, 6,214 kms, P2,450,000 **Now P2,350,000**
BMW 316i 2002, Steel Gray, 6,000 kms, P1,400,000 **Now P1,350,000**
BMW 316i 2002, Titanium Silver, 5,000 kms, P1,450,000 **Now P1,400,000**
BMW 318i 2002, Alpine White, 2,000 kms, P1,815,000 **Now P1,750,000**
BMW 318i Exec. 2002, Titanium Silver, 10,000 kms, P1,950,000 **Now P1,885,000**
BMW 330d 2001, Black Sapphire, 13,000 kms, P2,400,000 **Now P2,275,000**
BMW 525i Exec. 2002, Blue Water, 6,000 kms, P2,900,000 **Now P2,850,000**

Other cars available:

BMW 316i 1995, Boston Green, 48,000 kms, P650,000 **Now P600,000**
BMW 316i 1997, Boston Green, 33,000 kms, P700,000 **Now P660,000**
BMW 320i 1994, Arklis Silver, 60,000 kms, P750,000 **Now P690,000**
BMW 316i 1998, Arklis Silver, 55,000 kms, P780,000 **Now P720,000**
BMW 320i 1998, Calypso Red, 50,000 kms, P850,000 **Now P820,000**
BMW 523i 1997, Canyon Red, 40,000 kms, P1,550,000 **Now P1,500,000**
BMW 520i 1999, Alpine White, 29,000 kms, P1,750,000 **Now P1,700,000**
BMW 520i 1999, Aspen Silver, 21,000 kms, P1,850,000 **Now P1,750,000**
BMW 320d 2001, Titanium Silver, 13,000 kms, P1,645,000 **Now P1,595,000**
BMW 323i 2000, Alpine White, 18,000 kms, P1,825,000 **Now P1,775,000**

Other cars available:

BMW 316i 1996, Boston Green, 40,000 kms, P700,000 **Now P685,000**
BMW 316i 1997, Alpine White, 47,000 kms, P725,000 **Now P710,000**
BMW 316i 1998, Cosmos Black, 32,000 kms, P810,000 **Now P790,000**
BMW 320i 1996, Cosmos Black, 85,000 kms, P850,000 **Now P835,000**
BMW 318tds 1996, Titanium Silver, 50,000 kms, P900,000 **Now P875,000**
BMW 316i 2002, Titanium Silver, 20,000 kms, P1,400,000 **Now P1,375,000**
BMW 725tds 1997, Orient Blue, 74,000 kms, P1,850,000 **Now P1,800,000**
BMW 318i Limousine 2002, Titanium Silver, 11,000 kms, P1,830,000 **Now P1,810,000**
BMW 318i Limousine 2002, Orient Blue, 6,000 kms, P1,870,000 **Now P1,850,000**
BMW 318i Executive 2001, Black Sapphire, 20,000 kms, P1,875,000 **Now P1,850,000**
BMW 318i Limousine 2002, Black Sapphire, 5,000 kms, P1,890,000 **Now P1,870,000**
BMW 318i Exec. 2002, Titanium Silver, 15,000 kms, P1,950,000 **Now P1,900,000**
BMW 325i 2002, Sienna Red, 9,000 kms, P2,390,000 **Now P2,350,000**
BMW 325i 2002, Titanium Silver, 13,000 kms, P2,450,000 **Now P2,350,000**
BMW 525i 2002, Titanium Silver, 15,000 kms, P2,825,000 **Now P2,775,000**
BMW 525i 2002, Black Sapphire, 10,000 kms, P3,900,000 **Now P2,305,000**
BMW X5 2003, Titanium Silver, 5,000 kms, P4,400,000 **Now P4,200,000**

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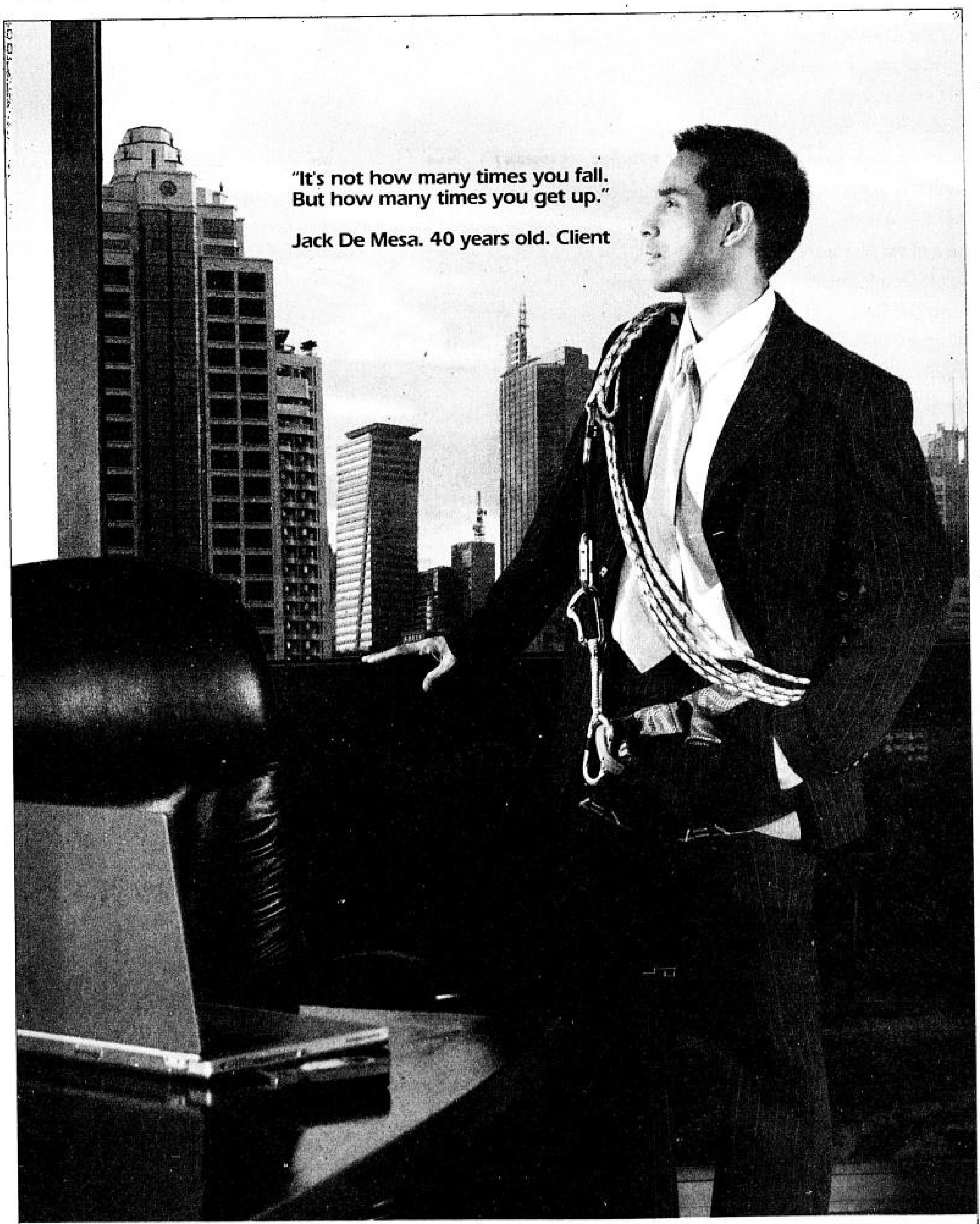
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THE CHENGS AND FRAPORT ACTED IN BAD FAITH.

They Don't Deserve Compensation!

The Chengs and Fraport clearly acted in bad faith over the PIATCO contracts.

They do not deserve to be compensated. There is no reward for fraud and corruption, especially for those caught with their hands in the proverbial cookie jar — like the Chengs and Fraport:

- **Bait and Switch.** The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee found PIATCO's bid for Terminal III to be done in bad faith. "What PIATCO did was, first, to present a generous unsolicited proposal which was not in conflict with specifications. But, the moment PIATCO won the award, it turned around and pushed, one after another, a string of changes which, in its totality, practically changed the terms of its original award."

  "In such a situation," the Committee further said, "the transportation department should have rejected the changes or called for a rebidding so that any competitor could come up with a better deal."

  That didn't happen.

- **Not Enough Funds.** PIATCO collaborated with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to make it appear that it had the financial capacity to undertake the Terminal III project. In reality, the Chengs funded only 6% of the US$350 million minimum project cost, as stated in the Supreme Court findings. The bid required 30%.

- **No Certifications of Enforceability.** The Chengs and Fraport pursued and implemented an illegal contract despite the refusal of the Secretaries of Justice and of Finance to issue certifications of enforceability of the PIATCO contracts. They also ignored the refusal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other senior lenders to release loan proceeds without the certifications. They even proceeded with the project without the required approval of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

- **Monopoly on Services in Terminal III.** The Chengs and Fraport conspired to monopolize—at the expense of public interest—airport services, a criminal offense punishable under Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code. Under U.S. laws, both companies would already have been indicted for these fraudulent acts at this point in time.

- **...But More Concessions.** The Chengs and Fraport—as disclosed by Cheng Yong himself—agreed to engage the services of a certain Alfonso Liongson, who pocketed a mind-boggling fee of over $10 million as an influence peddler or facilitator for additional concessions and contract amendments that are invariably detrimental to government and public interest.

- **No Public Bidding.** Both the Chengs and Fraport connived to award a multimillion-peso contract (over P300 million) to Wintrack, owned by former DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, in violation of the BOT Law. The payment to Wintrack was deducted or offset from MIAA's guaranteed payment. This is also illegal. Furthermore, this expenditure did not have a budget and was undertaken without congressional appropriation. Again, this is a violation of the law. Worse, the Wintrack contract was implemented under a Supplement that was never approved by the NEDA.

  Since this Supplement was recently declared null and void, can MIAA recover the money it paid to Wintrack?

- **No Audit.** The Chengs and Fraport have stubbornly refused an audit as directed by the Ombudsman in connection with the plunder case filed against them, even if it could be the basis for any compensation. What are they hiding? Who are they protecting? It's about time the public knows.

- **No Due Diligence.** Fraport, in particular, recklessly and irresponsibly lent and invested in PIATCO like a high-stakes gambler who was ready to write off his bet even before the venture started operating. Fraport paid for 95% of the project cost without insisting on having a say in PIATCO, and with little or no due diligence, placing its investment at risk

- **No Scruples.** The Chengs, on the other hand, took advantage of their willing and consenting partner Fraport, overpricing here and there, exacting kickbacks from suppliers and partaking of dole-outs. Now, these former business partners have locked horns.

The road map for the government is clear and simple. Only the Chengs and Fraport are throwing obstacles and changing the road signs.

Under the BOT Law, PIATCO, the Chengs and Fraport are mere concessionaires in building and, later, transferring—but definitely not owning—Terminal III. PIATCO does not own Terminal III. It belongs to the government, unlike BOO (Build-Operate-Own) projects.

The Supreme Court has already spoken. Very soon, its decision will become final: **ALL PIATCO CONTRACTS ARE NULL AND VOID.**

The MIAA should take over and complete Terminal III in order to realize President Arroyo's vow that it would be opened and be operational this year. Entities who have legitimate claims should file these with the appropriate government agency for proper handling.

CORRUPTION IS EVIL. IT SHOULD NEVER BE REWARDED.
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

RP seeks $100-M increase in duty-free exports to US

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT is negotiating with the US Trade Representative to increase by $100 million the Philippines' annual duty-free exports to the United States with the addition of pineapple juice, carrageenan and tuna to the list of eligible Philippine products under the US General System of Preferences (GSP).

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Dole Food Co. Inc. of the US has been actively lobbying to jack up its exports of first extract pineapple juice from Dole Philippines through higher US GSP allocation.

Roxas said Dole, which already controlled 90 percent of the US juice market, faced resistance from.a small pineapple producer in Hawaii which had opposed the increase in GSP allocation to the Philippines.

On carrageenan, Roxas said the Philippines had assured USTR Robert Zoellick that the government would address the complaints filed by FMC Corp., an American carrageenan maker operating in the Philippines, on its troubles with local environment watchdogs.

Roxas said the Philippines had likewise lobbied to add canned tuna exports to the increased US GSP allocation in order to offset the potential losses in market share arising from the duty-free perks granted to canned tuna exports from Andean countries last year.

Roxas said that while the quota increase would boost the country's annual US GSP quota to $1.1 billion, local businessmen must improve their utilization of the country's annual allocation to maximize the benefits from the program.

Cocktales . . .

From page B5

its annual pow wow.

Heard through the grapevine

THE publicly listed ICTSI is set to formally assume control of Eastern Europe's biggest port today.

ICTSI chair/CEO Enrique Razon Jr., who blames Cocktales for having scuttled the GMA golf outing in Pebble Beach, flew straight to Poland, where the port is located, after saying goodbye to the President in San Francisco.

Razon, a GMA *kumpadre* who was looking forward to the Pebble Beach R&R, was part of the official business entourage during the President's US state visit. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Pasar minority shareholders want access to company records

By Elena R. Torrijos

MINORITY stockholders of Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. yesterday raised fears that foreign metal trader and Pasar majority owner Glencore AG might be bleeding the copper smelter dry.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, four Pasar minority stockholders led by Consuelo Padilla and their legal counsels Nicanor Padilla and German Lichauco of Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako law offices said that Pasar officials yesterday again refused to grant them access to corporate records of the company.

"The shareholders have a right to inspect (the company's records and if you deny that right, you can be criminally liable under the Corporation Code," Lichauco said.

Pasar president Javier Herrero was not available when the INQUIRER called his office yesterday. He also did not return the INQUIRER's call.

Lawyer Padilla alleged that "a lot of the revenue-generating activities that used to be left in Pasar are being moved offshore. The extent of which has yet to be determined. If this was not true, then they would not try so hard to hide the documents."

Minority shareholders Padilla, Pablito Lim, Manuel Agcaoili and Teodulfo Marquez, who are all listed in Pasar's stockholders transfer book, last March requested Herrero and then Pasar corporate secretary Domingo Castillo to furnish them with various financial and marketing reports.

The four stockholders were part of the management team installed by former Pasar president and former Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez, whose group teamed up with Glencore in 1999 to acquire Pasar from the government.

However, the management team led by Dominguez was ousted late last year after differences with the Glencore management.

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2002	BMW 316I	Titanium Silver	5Tk	1,450,000.00	Sold
2002	BMW 318iA	Alpine White	2Tk	1,815,000.00	Sale Pending
2002	BMW 318iA Exec.	Titanium Silver	10Tk	1,950,000.00	
2001	BMW 330diesel	Black Sapphire	13Tk	2,400,000.00	Sale Pending
2002	BMW 525iA Exec.	Blue Water	6Tk	2,900,000.00	
2001	BMW X5 3.0d	Topaz Blue	12Tk	4,060,000.00	

Other Pre-Owned BMWs

Year	Model	Color	Mileage	Price	Status
1995	BMW 316i	Boston Green	48Tk	650,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 316i	Boston Green	33Tk	700,000.00	
1998	BMW 316i	Arktis Silver	55Tk	780,000.00	
1998	BMW 320iA	Calypso Red	50Tk	850,000.00	Sold
1998	BMW 320iA	Arktis Gray	60Tk	690,000.00	
2002	BMW 318iA M-sport	Black Sapphire	10Tk	1,975,000.00	Sale Pending
1997	BMW 523iA	Canyon Red	40Tk	1,550,000.00	
1999	BMW 520iA	Aspen Silver	21Tk	1,800,000.00	Sold
1999	BMW 520iA	Alpine White	29Tk	1,750,000.00	

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A Legacy for th

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Congratulations to the shareholders, directors, officers and employees of San Roque Power Corporation upon the inauguration of the San Roque Multipurpose Project- the largest embankment dam in Asia.

Today the challenge of sustainable energy development is even more significant, given the social, environmental and economic problems confronting our nation, indeed the world. As we surmount these challenges, economic development and prosperity in turn will trigger more demand for energy. Hence, the most significant aspect of the 345-MW Project is that its peaking power and other benefits will continue for generations-through this century and even beyond-given the long service life of this technology.

The completion of the SRMP demonstrates the capability of the government to be a successful public partner in world-class infrastructure development. This water resource facility exemplifies the major accomplishments possible through effective partnering of the private and public sectors.

Moreover, I am especially pleased that the SRMP's year-round irrigation benefits will revitalize and increase dramatically the productivity of thousands of hectares of prime farmlands in Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac. Recent advances in technology and research can benefit the agricultural sector further.

This project is consistent with our goals of applying modern technology and enhancing human resources development via the sound practices of sustainability and the principles of social justice.

Mabuhay!

Gma

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

The completion of the San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP) is the fruit of determined political will, our people empowerment program, and a culture of excellence in the competitive world of the 21st century. Today, we celebrate the inauguration of this world-class project for the welfare of Filipinos and Filipinos yet to come.

During the 1990's our nation was plagued with frequent power outages and brownouts that adversely affected our economy and the morale of our people. As your President, I commissioned a thorough review of all options, looking for power projects that could solve our dilemma yet satisfy internationally accepted financial, social and environmental standards. The San Roque Multipurpose Project emerged as one of the most promising alternatives with significant benefits for the long-term, not just in power generation, but more importantly in agriculture, flood control, and quality water supply.

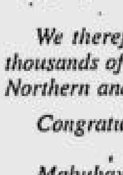
The SRMP also will significantly reduce the perennial flooding of the Agno River that has caused so much property damage and claimed so many lives in numerous Pangasinan and Tarlac towns. It will provide year-around irrigation benefits to more than 80,000 hectares of farmlands, mostly in Pangasinan, but also in Nueva Ecija and Tarlac. It will enhance water quality downstream, which in the past has adversely affected annual harvests. In addition, the Project has a dependable peaking capacity of 85 megawatts-even during severe droughts-that will help make power outages and brownouts a distant memory. The potential of the entire system for tourism, potable water supply, fish farming, forestry and other means of livelihood for the Cordillera highlanders and the flood-plain residents is almost unlimited.

To the many agencies, officials and organizations responsible for the Project, your contributions are most appreciated, respected and admired. To the communities that may have been dislocated or affected adversely during the construction period, your patience and cooperation will be rewarded by sustainable livelihood and other social development programs in due time.

To the shareholders, directors, officers and staff of San Roque Power Corporation go our commendation for accepting the challenge of planning, financing, building, developinh and operating the San Roque Multipurpose Project-the 12th largest earth and rock dam in the world and the largest privately-sponsored hydropower project in Asia.

Maraming Salamat at Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

FIDEL VALDEZ RAMOS
FORMER PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINES

I am pleased to extend my warmest felicitations to the shareholders, directors, officers and staff of the San Roque Power Corporation on the successful completion of the San Roque Multipurpose Project.

We at the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) commend the realization of this initiative. Besides producing electric power, the SRMP will increase the capacity of San Roque Reservoir in providing irrigation to about 70,800 hectares, benefiting thousands of farmers in Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. Further, the increased storage capacity of the San Roque Reservoir will enable NIA's Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project sponsored to expand its service area by another 87,000 hectares over the next few years with the renovation of existing irrigation network.

We therefore expect SRMP to create a significant impact on the lives of thousands of farmers and ruralfolk, and on the agriculture and fishery sector in Northern and Central Luzon.

Congratulations and more power to SRMP!

Mabuhay!

LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PHILIPPINES

I am pleased to recognize the substantial achievement of San Roque Power Corporation in completing the $1.2 billion San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP). It assumed the full risks of financing, securing regulatory approvals, designing, building and operating the Project, and now has placed it in commercial service well ahead of time.

The SRMP is a unique generating asset that will improve substantially the overall reliability and stability of our national grid. It will operate primarily as a peaking plant during periods each day when the output of other plants cannot fulfill consumer demand, operating year-around at its dependable capacity of 85 MW for a minimum of eight hours a day-even during periods of extreme drought. Whenever surplus water is available, it can either provide extra peaking capacity or generate off peak power, or a combination of the two. This surplus power reduces our dependence on imported fuel oil and lowers the variable operating expenses of other power plants.

It is only fitting that we acknowledge this world-class undertaking that was achieved largely through the expertise, skills and capabilities of Filipinos. On behalf of my colleagues of the Department of Energy, thank you San Roque Power Corporation for your leadership and steadfast determination to make this massive Project a success. You truly have earned our utmost admiration and respect. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Vicente S. Perez

VICENTE S. PEREZ, JR.
SECRETARY

The San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP), a $1.2 billion investment of San Roque Power Corporation (SRPC) is the highest dam of its kind in Asia and the 12th largest in the world. With its four major benefits of year-round irrigation, flood control, water quality enhancement and peaking power, this landmark infrastructure project represents a heritage that will improve the lives of Filipinos for generations.

> ***"The San Roque Multipurpose Project is much more than an engineering accomplishment or a model of state-of-the-art hydropower technology. It is a story of people from diverse parts of the world and cultures, speaking different languages and dialects, who joined forces with thousands of local Filipinos to work together towards a common goal,"***
>
> *President Patrick McAllister*
> *San Roque Power Corporation*

A triumph of a partnership

The events that led to completion of the SRMP involved years of extensive investigations and studies of its technical, environmental and economic feasibility. Designated as Flagship Project by the Ramos Administration and embraced by his successors, the SRMP is the largest infrastructure development undertaken by the Republic of the Philippine on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis. The National Power Corporation served as the lead public proponent on behalf of the DENR, DPWH and NIA. SRPC was selected as BOT contractor and served as the private proponent of the Project under the Environmental Compliance Certificate.

As early as 1949, studies were conducted on the viability of a project to source an additional supply to the growing energy demand in Luzon. A 1976 study examining the potential of the Agno River, the third largest river in the Philippines, for hydropower, irrigation and other purposes, recommended the development of Sitio Tabu in Barangay Dalupirip, Itogon, Benguet, and the San Roque site in Pangasinan on the boundary of the Municipalities of San Manual and San Nicholas.

Although attractive from technical and economic perspectives, the Tabu site posed significant adverse cultural, social and environmental impacts as its construction would have flooded the indigenous communities upstream. Hence, NPC selected the San Roque site for more detailed data collection, modeling and analyses, as the area upstream of the proposed dam site was sparsely inhabited due to extremely rugged terrain, steep slopes and narrow gorges.

The birth of a landmark infrastructure

The SRMP features a rock-fill clay-core embankment dam standing 200 meters above the existing river channel and containing nearly 40 million cubic meters of fill material. It was designed and constructed by a team of engineers, dam builders and hydropower experts from all over the globe. The dam's advanced design makes it an infrastructure case study, but its main attribute is the safeguards employed to ensure its safety and durability.

The dam structure consists of an embankment with an impervious central core. Layers of armor rock protect the outer shell of the dam from waves and erosion. The rock foundation supporting the core has been carefully cleaned and treated with grout to prevent leakage and seepage. Tunnels are installed below the dam to monitor water seeping through the foundation.

The SRMP is also equipped with 6 spillway gates to protect the dam from overtopping whenever inflows to the reservoir are sufficient to cause its surface elevation to rise beyond the normal maximum operating elevation. In this way, the excess water is discharged directly into the downstream Agno River channel, thereby preventing overtopping.

The challenges

"The birth of a new idea, a new hero and certainly, a new gigantic infrastructure like SRMP is often met with either awe or a tinge of skepticism or sometimes, a little of both," essays retired AFP Vice-Admiral Virgilio Q. Marcelo, currently Vice President and Director for Community and Government Programs, who

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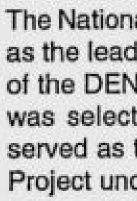

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Congratulations to San Roque Power Corporation for its steadfast commitment to the San Roque Multipurpose Project. On the occasion of the project's inauguration, the National Power Corporation commends the men and women of SRPC, the stakeholders, and most especially the local communities for the dedication they have shown to make this landmark project a success.

This project brings with it a host of benefits that extends beyond electrification. Apart from ensuring the stability of power supply in Luzon, the 345-megawatt San Roque project will also irrigate more than 70,000 hectares of farming land and will play a major role in flood control in low-lying areas of Pangasinan and Tarlac.

Definitely, the San Roque project is a kind of undertaking that will help propel the power industry to greater heights as it goes through the critical stage of restructuring. To the management of the SRPC and the project proponents – our partners in serving the Filipino consumers, congratulations and more power!

ROGELIO M. MURGA
PRESIDENT & CEO

Everyone who has been involved in the San Roque Multipurpose Project has a remarkable story to tell, and none of the thousands of Filipinos on whose sweat and hard labor the dam is founded can forget what it was like to be a part of this worthy endeavor.

Having handled virtually every task imaginable to the construction industry while building the San Roque Dam, they have acquired a world-class safety culture in performing construction and engineering work. They now are the custodians of rich knowledge and innovations that, properly nourished, can sustain them into the future.

Livelihood projects

The residents of lands within the SRMP boundaries were resettled in accordance with a Resettlement Action Plan developed by NPC in consultation with the affected peoples and communities in conformance with both Philippine requirements and international guidelines.

At the forefront of this mission is Vice Admiral Marcelo, who reasons should be a right perspectiv development. He plans a projects around three core excellent environmental st possession of the neces ness acumen; and improve quality of life.

Under his recommend watchful eye, SRPC and NF porting many livelihood p cluding piggeries, quail e tion; bag making, seedling in supp NPC · W Manage gram an tive sto aged by t commun

Ultimatel goals are

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e Future

brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from some 42 years of diversified government service.

A resident of the affected barangay of Narra in San Manuel town, he more than anyone else, understood the concerns and doubts of the affected communities. At one extreme, the local peoples viewed the project as a threat. Their main fear was that dams cause flooding and a dam of such magnitude as San Roque could wipe them off the face of the earth in the event of a failure or accidental release.

Vice Admiral Marcelo organized dialogues and consultations to help SRPC and the affected communities arrive at a mutually beneficial understanding. It was important that the local peoples appreciate the safety and operational features of the dam, which actually significantly reduce the perennial flooding that affects at least 16 Pangasinan and Tarlac towns.

Undaunted by such fears, the Project's private proponents coordinated with government agencies, local communities and other interest groups to educate and inform. SRPC commissioned numerous environmental studies and surveys and sponsored chopper trips for local officials and community leaders to see exactly where and how they were going build the dam.

Working closely with NPC, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government units of Pangasinan and Benguet, SRPC was able to resolve most of the initial objections raised against the Project and was rewarded with widespread acceptance and support. Together with NPC-the lead public proponent of the SRMP-resettlement sites were built and livelihood projects created.

Several months after the DENR updated the Environmental Compliance Certificate for the Project in February 1998, SRPC codified the major concerns of the indigenous people of Itogon, which ultimately became better known as the 17 Conditions. The San Roque Inter-Agency Task Force was convened to consider these Conditions and commitments to fulfill them made by NPC, DENR and SRPC. Late the night of January 21, 1999, the Municipality of Itogon endorsed the project by a supermajority vote of 8 to 10.

The SRMP was substantially completed at midnight of February 14, 2003, at which time, its peaking power, irrigation, flood control, enhanced water quality benefits became available to the surrounding regions, which include the Northwestern Luzon Economic Quadrangle.

All throughout the construction of the Project, about 80 percent of the labor force came from the affected communities-proof that more than just recipients of the SRMP benefits, the people of Pangasinan and Benguet are SRPC's partners in the foundation of this legacy. SRPC operate and maintain the SRMP for the next 25 years as provided by its agreement with NPC, after which ownership of the power facilities will transfer to the NPC. Ownership of the dam, spillway and lower level outlet will be transferred to NPC upon acceptance

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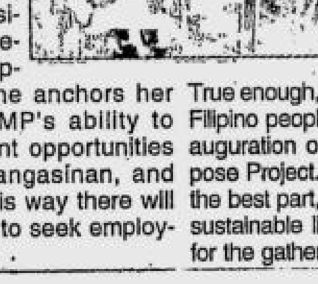
SRPC's primary vision—to give people a livelihood that will generate enough income for them to remain in their communities and avert the tragedy of broken families brought on by the migration of residents to Metro Manila and overseas to seek employment.

Dam Good Stuff

No one understands the need for self-sufficiency and sustainability than Analyn Blardony, a native of San Manuel, Pangasinan. As a business manager at a livelihood enterprise supported by SRPC, she anchors her dreams on the SRMP's ability to stimulate employment opportunities to the women of Pangasinan, and Benguet as well. This way there will be no need for them to seek employment elsewhere.



"There is a new kind of culture emerging right here at my hometown. All of a sudden, we are waking up to discover that we have a host of things to accomplish in a day, " she enthuses.

For starters, Analyn is among the many women who envision making Pangasinan known to the world as the producer of fashionable bags and accessories. At the moment, she oversees a group of women from the resettlement site in producing beaded necklaces and machine sewn accessories, such as corporate giveaways, tote bags and other novelty items. Some of their products are now exported in the United States under the label *Dam Good Stuff*.

True enough, SRPC's commitment to the Filipino people does not end with the inauguration of the San Roque Multipurpose Project. The most difficult, and yet the best part, is ensuring that in all these sustainable livelihoods, something is left for the gatherers of tomorrow.

San Roque Power Corporation

The investors and employees of San Roque Power Corporation (SRPC) are most pleased and proud to announce the successful completion and commencement of commercial operations of the San Roque Multipurpose Project. SRMP has been our principal focus for more than 6 years. We strongly believe the SRMP will provide substantial benefits to the peoples and communities of the Philippines for generations to come.

This major accomplishment was made possible by the effective teamwork and continuing cooperation and support of diverse elements of the public and private sectors, ranging from the Office of the President through the local barangays affected by the Project, and including our engineering and construction contractor—Washington Group International—and its array of major suppliers and subcontractors, and the more than 5,000 Filipino laborers, craftsmen, supervisors, engineers, accountants and administrative personnel who have dedicated their skills, knowledge and hard work.

The SRMP posed many challenges because it affected so many local government units, communities and peoples. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination were essential and the Office of the President was responsive to them, from the administration of former President Fidel V. Ramos through the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. I would like to publicly acknowledge and express my appreciation to the individuals assigned to this task by the President; namely, Secretary Renato V. Diaz, Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon. Furthermore, I also want to recognize the continuing support and cooperation of the National Power Corporation, the lead public proponent of the SRMP, throughout the development and implementations phases of the Project.

Our perspective now changes from project implementation to opera-tions and maintenance. We look forward to providing the Philippines with reliable peaking power for the next 25 years, power that is environmentally friendly and uses a renewable indigenous resource—water.

We also look forward to continuing our work among the peoples and communities affected by our Project. Our commitments as a good and re-sponsible corporate neighbor do not end with the completion of construction. The social development and sustainable livelihood programs that SRPC has sponsored for the people of Benguet and Pangasinan over the past 5 years will continue.

We are most grateful for having the opportunity be the private proponent of the SRMP and for being accepted as an integral part of your communities. We trust that we have laid the foundation for harmonious, constructive, long-term relationships with the peoples, communities, LGUs and agencies associated this world-class Project.

Maraming Salamat at Mabuhay!

Patrick McAllister
SRPC President and CEO

Corporate Shareholders

An impressive consortium of corporate shareholders each of which has significant experience and expertise in the development and operation of power projects in Asia back the San Roque Power Corporation (SRPC), sponsor and developer of the San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP).

SRPC was incorporated in the Philippines in October 1997. Its economic interests are divided among its corporate shareholders as follows: Sithe Philippines Holdings, Inc., an affiliate of a US independent power producer, owns 50.05 percent; Marubeni Corporation, a major Japanese trading company holds 42.45 percent; and KPIC Singapore Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of a large Japanese utility company, takes the remaining 7.5 percent. In October 1997, the Philippine National Power Corporation (NPC) contracted with SRPC to build, operate and maintain the project for a cooperation period of 25 years from its completion and commencement of commercial operation for a total project cost of $ 1.2 billion.

People at the Helm

At the height of the construction of the San Roque Dam, there were crews working round the clock in various locations. There were more than 1,000 different pieces of heavy equipment being used, from water pumps and generators to trucks and bulldozers. In addition, there was the erratic weather to deal with.

Coordinating man, machine and nature was a task that required someone with a vast experience in big-scale projects and hands-on management skills. It was a job perfect for Bill Scott of Washington Group International. To get everyone working on the same page, Bill came up with a schedule that was fondly called the "bible" to which everyone adhered.

One of the most crucial parts of the project was laying the groundwork for the construction team. It demanded the expertise of Bob Resch, who management engineering and procurement from WGI's office in New York City, supplemented by numerous visits to the SRMP site.

On the other hand, retired AFP Vice-Admiral Virgilio Q. Marcelo, now Vice President and Director for Community and Government Programs, has firsthand experience in developing social development and livelihood projects for the affected communities. A native of barangay Narra, one of the affected barangays in San Manuel, his involvement gave a local face to the project. He was responsible for assisting the affected families in filing their land claims and in making sure that their resettlement and sustainable livelihood concerns were addressed on a timely basis.

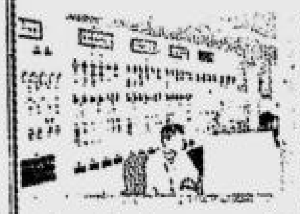
In 1996, Glenn Gaydar of Sithe Energies was part of a group of people who each had to cross the Agno River aboard a suspended makeshift one-man basket to evaluate the feasibility of building the San Roque Dam. In doing so, he brought with him 30 years of experience in hydropower design, construction, operations, maintenance and management. As Vice President for Hydro Development, he played a key role in negotiating the contracts that ultimately led to project implementation,

Last but not the least, SPRC Senior Vice President Raymond Cunningham's ability to sing Ilokano and Tagalog folksongs was honed from attending numerous barangay and town fiestas, graduation rites and christening ceremonies in Benguet and Pangasinan. Whether it is a memory trick developed through his engineering background or simply something he was born with, he has the uncanny ability to memorize the names of almost everyone who was affected by the SRMP. Thus, being on a first name basis and friendly terms with hundreds of local families served him in good stead in the overall management of the San Roque Project.

Project Benefits

Peaking Power

As a peaking power plant, the SMRP is able to provide the Luzon Power Grid an additional dependable capacity of 85 megawatts, even during periods of extreme drought. For a minimum period of eight hours each day when the electrical output of base-load and intermediate power plants cannot fulfill consumer demands, it can be relied upon to supply the needed capacity and help maintain stable voltage and frequency.



The SRMP offers substantial power benefits in addition to the peaking capacity and energy considered in the economic analyses conducted by NPC and the National Economic Development Authority. For example, the water turbines can be maintained in spinning reserve when not online; that is, turning at 60 hertz under no load, ready to deliver as much as 400 megawatts within seconds in the event of a regional power outage.

Even if completely shut down, the turbines can be restarted and energized in a matter of minutes as no warm up cycle is required. In case of a blackout, its "blackstart" feature enables it to be the initial source of power to restart other power plants.

During rainy seasons or when surplus water is available, the SRMP can either provide extra peaking capacity (beyond 85 MW) or generate off peak power, or a combination of the two. As a vital component of the energy expansion program for Luzon, the power generated by SRMP will help the nation generate foreign exchange savings from the reduction in importation of fuel oil for power generation.

Flood Control

The flood control benefit of SRMP reflects extensive inter-agency coordination with flood-related forecasting agencies. In particular, the Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Dam Operations (FFWSDO), which includes NPC and the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA), specifies the appropriate spillway gate openings to SRPC based on extensive meteorological and flow gauge data transmitted to the dam via redundant communications systems.

The SRMP is also complemented by the 3-phase, P 9.7 billion Agno Flood Control Project managed by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Phase I covers the lower segment of the Agno River down to its confluence with Lingayen Bay and was recently completed. Phase II, the central segment, is fully funded and currently underway. Phase III covers the segment up to San Roque Dam and should begin next year.

Infrastructure-wise, the gated spillway is used to implement the major flood control component of SRMP. During typhoons, it is controlled so that maximum outflows never exceed the peaks that would have occurred without the dam. In so doing, the SRMP isolates the downstream communities from the releases made at Ambuklao and Binga dams, even when water levels in the Upper Agno River rises to critical levels.

In reality, the SRMP reservoir does not contain floods, but instead, attenuates them by reducing outflows released downstream and storing a portion of the inflows received from upstream. The SRMP can attenuate all floods up to the 200-year event—a flood so great as to recur only once every 200 years. By controlling the recurring floods caused by the swelling of the Agno River, extensive damage to property and loss of life of downstream dwellers will be significantly reduced.

Irrigation Benefits

SRMP can provide year-round irrigation benefits for 70,000 to 87,000 hectares of farmland downstream of the dam, which will enable a more predictable and dependable double rice crop cycle of diversified crops. The National Irrigation Authority (NIA) is carrying out the irrigation component, known as the Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project (ARIIP), in consultation with local irrigator associations.

Part of the ARIIP is the rehabilitation of the original 47,000 hectare irrigation network and construction of a new irrigation diversion weir a few kilometers downstream of the SRMP dam. The balance involves developing a new irrigation and drainage system serving about 23,700 hectares. The new weir impoundment will serve as a re-regulating pond supplying water to both the Agno River and to the irrigation system during the 16-hour off-peak period when the power component of the dam is not operated. NIA projections indicate that more than 53,000 farmers will benefit from the irrigation component.

With consistent water available from SRMP, the agricultural production of the Pangasinan Plain is expected to improve dramatically, thereby improving food security of the Philippines and the livelihood of the farmers.

Water Management

Residents of the municipalities at the foot of the San Roque Dam now can enjoy enhanced water quality in the Agno River. The SRMP improves the quality of the water in the Lower Agno River via a proactive integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) throughout San Roque watershed and by trapping sediments caused by erosion from such sources such as unregulated development and small scale mining. The IWMP focuses on reforestation while respecting the cultural heritage and practices of the indigenous peoples who reside within the forest lands comprising the San Roque watershed.

SRPC President Patrick McAllister often stresses the importance of properly maintaining the watershed so that future generations may still enjoy the benefits of the SRMP into the next century and beyond. The general aim of the watershed plan is to enhance the ecological sustainability of the San Roque watershed while addressing the socio-economic concern of the communities surrounding the project.

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8966633/30

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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ARTWORK

JOYA Mother&Child 9288846

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

B/OVEN ROLLER SLICER 9331009 09163794561

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22T New Complt SR Impld 7767507

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JEG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
with principal office located at
9H Ma. Cristina Street, Cebu City

and

MAI-I RESOURCES CORPORATION
With principal office located at
375-G Acacia Street, Lahug, Cebu City

hereby make the following public disclosure:

- Relief From Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement

In its letter dated 21 March 2003, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) granted the joint application of JEG Development Corporation ("JEG") and MAI-I Resources Corporation ("MAI-I") for relief from the Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement under the Securities Regulation Code ("SRC"), covering 257,640,000 new common shares issued to JEG by Vivant Corporation (formerly Philstar.com, Inc.) and 342,360,000 new common shares issued to MAI-I of Vivant Corporation.

The transaction subject of the exemption relates to an increase in the authorized capital stock of Vivant Corporation from P899,520,268.00, divided into 224,880,067 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares, both with a par value of P1.00 per share, to P 2,000,000,000.00 divided into 1,325,359,799 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares with a par value of P1.00 per share. JEG subscribed to 257,640,000 new shares from out of the said increase in capital stock, at the price of P1.25 per new share, in exchange for 6,168 common shares in Hijos de F. Escaño, Inc. ("Hijos") owned by JEG and valued at P52,213,868 per Hijos share, while MAI subscribed to 342,360,000 new common shares of Vivant Corporation out of the same increase in capital stock, at the same price, in exchange for 8,196 shares of Hijos owned by MAI-I at the same valuation. The application for increase in capital stock was approved by the SEC on 08 April 2003.

The exemption or relief from the mandatory tender offer requirement of the SRC granted by the SEC was claimed and granted on the ground that the subscriptions by JEG and MAI-I of the newly issued shares of Vivant Corporation are purchases of newly issued shares from unissued capital stock under SRC Rule 19.1 (3) (a) (i).

This publication is made in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code and SRC Rule 19.1 (3) (b).

(PDI–May 23 & 30, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given of the loss of Phil. Passport #JJ-189085 in the name of NEIL MANGALIMAN AGDIPA. If found contact Neil at 0916-4372553.
(PDI-May 30, 2003)

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ERRATUM

Governing Board Resolution Nos. 2 & 3 Series of 2003, published in this paper on May 28, 2003 were signed in Manila and not in Mandaluyong City.

POEA

Department of Labor and Employment

SM SUPERMALLS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's

SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

at the

KABUHAYAN 2003 Action Center

SM Megamall Bldg. A,
Mandaluyong City

April 10-June 10, 2003
4/F Bridgeway

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TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
PRIMETIME*

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**46.0**
2	GMA	28.6
3	IBC	5.7
4	Studio 23	4.6
5	ABC	2.2

* *6:00pm to 10:00pm*

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
MORNING

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**38.6**
2	GMA	31.6
3	Studio 23	4.9
4	IBC	3.6
5	Cartoon Network	1.8

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
AFTERNOON

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**39.1**
2	GMA	36.5
3	Studio 23	5.0
4	IBC	2.6
5	RPN	1.7

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
EVENING

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**44.8**
2	GMA	29.0
3	IBC	5.0
4	Studio 23	4.2
5	ABC	2.1

OVERALL TOP 15 TELEVISION PROGRAMS

13 out of the Top 15 programs are from ABS-CBN.

Rank	Program	Channel	Rating (%)
1	**Bituin**	**ABS-CBN**	**38.9**
2	**Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay**	**ABS-CBN**	**36.8**
3	**Darating Ang Umaga**	**ABS-CBN**	**36.5**
4	**Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas**	**ABS-CBN**	**35.2**
5	**Meteor Garden (ABS-CBN)**	**ABS-CBN**	**29.6**
6	**Game KNB?**	**ABS-CBN**	**28.9**
7	**Wansapanataym**	**ABS-CBN**	**27.0**
8	**Maalaala Mo Kaya**	**ABS-CBN**	**26.4**
9	**OK Fine Whatever**	**ABS-CBN**	**26.0**
10	**Magandang Gabi, Bayan**	**ABS-CBN**	**25.9**
11	**Star Cinema Presents**	**ABS-CBN**	**24.9**
12	**TV Patrol (ABS-CBN)**	**ABS-CBN**	**24.3**
13	**Sunday Family Cinema**	**ABS-CBN**	**23.7**
14	Imbestigador	GMA	23.4
15	Idol Ko si Kap	GMA	22.9

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
OVERALL

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**41.7**
2	GMA	32.1
3	Studio 23	4.6
4	IBC	3.9
5	RPN	1.6

Source: AGB Mega Manila Households Data, May 18-24, 2003

It's competition that's out of breath.

And that's the truth.

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SINCE 1953

US economy sending mixed signals; outlook dim

WASHINGTON—The US economic outlook was muddled Wednesday by a weak report on durable goods orders, suggesting the slump in the manufacturing sector is continuing despite strength in other sectors.

A Commerce Department report showed a 2.4-percent drop in April from the previous month in orders for durable goods—big ticket items like autos, planes and refrigerators expected to last three years or more.

The fall was the largest monthly decline since September 2002 and larger than expected on Wall Street. On a year-on-year basis, April orders were up a scant 0.6 percent.

"The bottom line is this report is weak and the industrial sector is still struggling," said Dick Rippe, economist at Prudential Securities.

"American businesses are still quite unwilling to ramp up spending and hiring," added Sal Guatieri at BMO Financial Group.

"They are very uncertain about the outlook for demand, and we can't really get a sustained strong economic recovery without businesses pulling their weight."

The news dampened enthusiasm about the economy after reports Tuesday shed a robust housing market and a modest increase in consumer confidence.

"The bipolar economy continues to chug along," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

"One day we find out that households love to spend money on big-ticket items such as houses. The next day we discover that businesses refuse to spend on big-ticket orders called durable goods. What's an economist to do? Worry and wonder. It's not good to have part of the economy in the tank and manufacturing is right there."

Anthony Karydakis at Bank One agreed, saying the report "is particularly disappointing, as it reflects fairly widespread weakness ... and does not offer much optimism for the near-term prospects of the manufacturing sector."

But Sung Won Sohn at Wells Fargo Bank said the details of the durable goods report show a mixed picture. A big part of the decline was in the volatile transportation sector, with Boeing recording just one order, and defense hardware orders plummeted 19.4 percent.

"As incentives on autos have lost their luster, terrorism, war and SARS have led to a decline in tourism, all resulting in a drop in transportation equipment orders," he said.

"Continued weak demand has businesses weary and hesitant to ramp up investment. Even a 15.3-percent increase in computers and related products orders isn't convincing enough to suggest things are turning around."

John Silvia at Wachovia Securities said there is reason for optimism, if one looks ahead and factors in the effect of the $350 billion tax cut enacted by Congress.

"The tax package just passed will help boost capital spending in the second half of this year and provide a broader base for growth next year," Silvia said.

President George W. Bush earlier signed the measure into law, saying it would bolster job growth and revive the US economy.

"We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy so that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job," Bush said at a made-for-television signing ceremony.

The National Retail Federation was among business groups praising the measure.

"This tax-cut plan establishes a sound, three-pronged approach that will increase consumer spending, encourage individual and business investment and create much-needed jobs," federation president Tracy Mullin said.

"It will provide a robust and vital shot in the arm for our nation's sluggish economy. Dollars put into consumers' pockets—rather than poured into the black hole of the Washington bureaucracy—are dollars that can work their way into the economy, creating jobs and prosperity for everything they touch." *AFP*

Mediation ordered for Enron lawsuits

HOUSTON—The judges overseeing Enron Corp.'s Chapter 11 bankruptcy and shareholder fraud lawsuits ordered the plaintiffs, the energy company, its creditors and investment banks to try and settle the intertwined cases.

US District Judge Melinda Harmon and US Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez sent the parties to mediation via a joint order on Wednesday. The ruling puts all of the main parties seeking to extract money out of Enron's ruin together at the negotiating table with those that will likely have to pay.

The two judges ordered the main participants in the knot of litigation to try to work the cases out under the supervision of US Senior District Judge Kevin Duffy in the Southern District of New York.

The 11 banks named as defendants in the combined $25 billion Enron shareholder suits, many of whom are also creditors in the bankruptcy, must participate. Insurers for all of the related parties must take part as will Enron creditors, including the unsecured creditors committee.

The results of the mediation will be non-binding, unless the parties agree otherwise, the court order says.

The lead plaintiff, the University of California Board of Regents, said the decision was a good step forward.

"We applaud the courts' action to help speed restitution to those victimized in the Enron fraud," said UC spokesperson Trey Davis.

Enron said the move could help avert further protracted litigation.

"It's our belief that in most cases, settlement is preferable to litigation," Enron spokesperson Karen Denne said.

The order does not include other defendants in the shareholder suits, including former top Enron executives like chairman Kenneth Lay and chief executive Jeff Skilling, among others.

Defunct accounting firm Andersen, which is all but out of business after being convicted of obstruction of justice last year, was also excluded from the order. The judges have the option to add the other defendants later.

The banks and brokerages ordered into mediation are J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., Citigroup and its subsidiary Salomon Smith Barney, Credit Suisse Group unit CSFB, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of America , Merrill Lynch & Co., Barclays Plc., Lehman Brothers Holding Inc., UBS AG unit UBS Warburg, Deutsche Bank AG and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Reuters

World trade talks hit new snag

GENEVA—Troubled global trade talks missed two more deadlines on Wednesday with no deals reached on how to cut tariffs on industrial goods or on reforming the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement system, envoys said.

The WTO negotiations, launched at the end of 2001 to give a boost to a flagging global economy, have already run into trouble over farm goods and setting aside patent laws for poorer states to buy cheaper medicines for sicknesses such as AIDS.

The latest problems increased concern among diplomats that a trade ministers' conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September might fail to set the WTO on course to wrap up the current Doha Round negotiations on time by the end of 2004.

And the new deadlocks sparked appeals from an admittedly disappointed WTO Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi to the body's 146 member countries to make more effort to overcome their differences.

Trade envoys had sought to meet an end-May target for agreement on a blueprint for tariff cuts in industrial goods, but three-days of talks ended on Wednesday with little more than an accord to try again in July.

"Member states need more time to reflect," said Swiss Ambassador Pierre-Louis Girard, chairman of the market access negotiating group that deals with industrial issues.

Later, talks on reshaping the WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), often hailed as the eight-year-old body's "jewel in the crown," also wrapped up far from the agreement for which May 31 was the target date.

The WTO is closing down for the next six days, partly because of a European holiday and partly to leave the building empty during anti-globalization protests in Geneva to coincide with this weekend's summit of the G8 industrial nations across Lake Leman in the French city of Evian.

On the table at the tariff talks was a draft plan presented by Girard for across-the-board cuts in tariffs, which aimed to satisfy the demands of both the rich and developing countries among the WTO's 145 member states. *Reuters*

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Japan April output falls as key exports slump

TOKYO—Japan's industrial production fell in April as manufacturers felt the chill from a slowdown in major export markets such as the United States and a continuing slump in domestic demand.

Output at factories and mines fell a preliminary 1.2 percent from March on a seasonally adjusted basis, figures from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) showed.

"With the global economy slowing, and especially with exports to Asia falling, the output figures are expected to remain sluggish," said Takeshi Minami, a strategist at UFJ Tsubasa Securities.

The figures follow recent data that suggested growth in Japan's economy, the world's second-largest, virtually stopped in the first three months of this year.

Just as worryingly, exports—one of the key props of the economy—have slipped as demand for Japanese goods in Asia and the United States falls and a rise in the yen makes them more expensive.

A METI official told reporters that the ministry has kept its assessment of industrial output unchanged from last month, saying it remained on a weak trend.

METI forecast that output would rise 2.6 percent in May and rise 1.1 percent in June, but the official cautioned that forecasts tend not to be met, though he could not give a clear reason why.

"The outlook really depends on how exports do in the months ahead," said Naoki Murakami, an economist at BNP Paribas. "So far, the US economy is not showing signs of recovery so I think this weak trend in Japanese output will probably continue through the summer."

Adding to the problems are a poor outlook for the domestic economy and the effects of the SARS virus on economies in Asia, the destination for some 40 percent of Japan's exports.

A poll by Reuters journalists of Japanese economic research bodies last week saw many forecasting a recession—two consecutive quarters of negative growth—this year. *Reuters*

Europe bank to weigh inflation drop in meet

NUREMBURG, Germany—The European Central Bank expects inflationary pressures to recede by next year and will weigh the improved price outlook in setting interest rates, ECB Chief Economist Otmar Issing said on Wednesday.

"In accordance with its strategy, the ECB will take this improved inflation outlook into account in its decisions," Issing said in an interview with the Nuerenberger Nachrichten newspaper.

The ECB is widely expected at its June 5 policy meeting to cut interest rates, perhaps by as much as 50 basis points, given the improving inflation prospects.

This view has been fueled by a stream of comments from ECB central bankers over the past few weeks—with Issing's as just the latest—that calming inflation gives the central bank room for maneuver.

Inflation in the euro zone has declined to 2.1 percent annual rate in April, ever closer to the below 2-percent level that the ECB calls price stability and down from 2.4 percent in March. Further declines widely expected given the strong currency, falling oil prices and weak demand.

"Even though the inflation rate in the next few months might show some fluctuation up and down, we still expect later on, particularly next year, a marked decline in euro zone inflation," Issing said in the interview.

However, he repeated that a spiral of declining prices is unlikely.

"There is no sign of deflation in the euro zone. The development in some regions and in Germany, which is a part of the euro zone, doesn't change anything in this picture ," he added.

He also said that the sharp rise in the euro serves corrects its earlier weakness.

"The recovery of the euro from its strong decline in the past should largely be seen as a return to normality, even though it is certainly not easy to keep up with the speed of the change," he said.

He noted that the euro rise has advantages—it cuts the price of imports, dampening inflation, and it improves consumers' buying power.

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. 082-2219400 Tele Fax 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A with specialty on Electrical Facilities for the Upgrading of the Electrical Facilities of the Dumoy System Water Resource Facilities for Sump No. 1 and 19 units production wells nos. 1 to 19, this City.

Approved Budget for the Contract P3,410,193.20

Eligibility requirements are available at the BAC-B c/o The office of the General Manager starting June 2, 2003 during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents/requirements will be on or before **June 16, 2003**.

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 per package starting June 23, 2003.

Pre-bidding is set on **July 11, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on **July 14, 2003** at 9:00 a.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, BAC-B

(PDI – May 30 and June 6, 2003)

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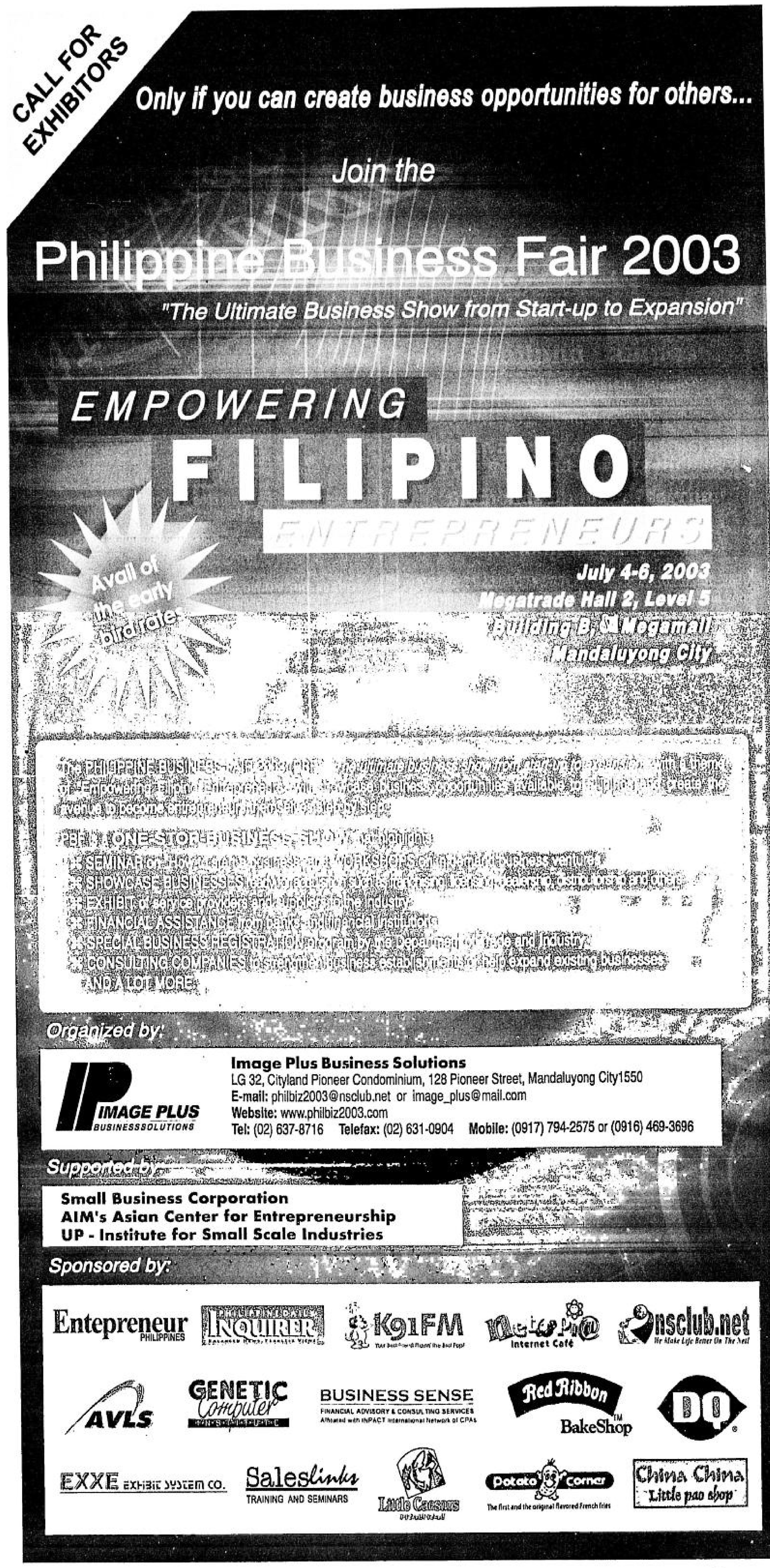

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- SHOWCASE BUSINESSES [illegible]
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sbma **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY**
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Rm. 223 Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4191/4713

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors are invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Project : **CBD CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE 1**

Location : Subic Bay Freeport Zone

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The Proposed project shall include securing/applying of all permits, supervision, labor, materials and equipment required for the CBD Construction and Development Package 1.

The proposed CBD Construction and Development Package 1 includes the following:

1. Removal/Demolition and Disposal
2. Earthworks, Subbase and Base course preparation
3. Roads, Pavements and sidewalks and traffic management
4. New and relocation of utilities (sewers, water system and water main, electrical power supplies, street lightings, telecom, catv lines)
5. Landscaping and hardscaping
6. New Traffic Signal Lighting System
7. Drainage System
8. Miscellaneous Structures (Curb and Gutter, Side walk, Road signs)

C. Approved Budget Cost : **Php 33 M (Locally Funded)**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License;

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Engineering "AA"

Kind of Project and Respective Size Ranges
Road, Highway, Pavement, Bridges "LA"

E. Cost of Qualification Statement/Forms

Php 500.00 (non-refundable)

Issuance date : **June 9 to 10, 2003 only from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Rm. 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Statements

June 17, 2003 @ 5:00 p.m.

Addressed to: ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman / Sr. D.A. for Support Services
Rm. 205, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. (047) 252-4782/4885

G. Time and date of submission and opening of bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the latest provision of Executive Order # 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) Atty. **CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 30 & June 6, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
National Telecommunications Commission
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of **IT Equipment and Services** for the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **May 26, 2003** to be submitted not later than **June 10, 2003, 5:00 p.m.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **June 19 to 20, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **July 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **July 16, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. and July 16, 2003 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements, two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 23 & 30, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **EPIFANIO A. MADAJE,** of #2 Acacia St., Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **PRIMANILA PLANS, INC.** effective **May 15, 2003.**

Any transaction entered or made through him shall not be honored by **PRIMANILA PLANS, INC.**

(PDI-May 30, 2003)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ATTY. TELESFORO "POY" A. UNAS

January 5, 1927 – May 20, 2003

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and memorial services, and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our moments of bereavement. Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.
We will miss you dearly."

THE PMA CLASS OF 1965
WISHES TO ANNOUNCE WITH DEEP REGRETS
THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR
BELOVED MISTAH

MAJ. GEN. EMILIO B. DE LEON, AFP (Ret.)

Who joined his Creator on May 27, 2003 at the age of 61.

His loving wife **Vickie**; children **Sonny & Tess, Chat & Nova, Dedet & Nilo, Tere, Pong, Krissie**; grandchildren **Ina, Mia, Benjo, Cobi, Ico, Patis, Sabrina, Louise & Carlos**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the White Plains Chapel, Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City.

Necrological service will be held on Monday, June 2, 2003 at 8:00 o'clock p.m. following 7:00 o'clock p.m. Mass at the White Plains Chapel.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2003, 12:00 o'clock noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

CESAR F. SANTOS

of Pateros, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 17, 2003

His bereaved wife, children & grandchildren, brother and sisters, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #04 Masagana St., Sta. Ana, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 01, 2003, after the Mass at 1:00 p.m. at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Anita "Aning" Cruz Ignacio

Wife of the late Dr. Mario E. Ignacio of Marikina City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 28, 2003 at the age of 89.

Her loving children Marita & Rene, Corazon & Ernest, Moryet & Gely, Lito & Luz, David & Alda, Eric & Lydia, and Dondi & Minda; grandchildren; great grandchildren; in-laws, relatives and friends mourn her passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Guzman Memorial Chapel, J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 31, 2003 at the Philippine Independent Cemetery, Concepcion, Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Philippine Independent Church, Marikina City.

Amado "Madz" S. Castrillo

13 September 1934 – 21 April 2003

We thank you

For your presence, your prayers, your kind text messages, consoling words, cards, donations and flowers.

You have been of great comfort to us during our time of bereavement.

Auring, children, grandchildren and relatives

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
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CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER SUPPORTS PMA'S 34TH NATIONAL MARKETING CONFERENCE. The Philippine Daily Inquirer recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) to sponsor the 34th National Marketing Conference (NMC) on May 28 & 29, at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza. This year's theme "Creative Marketing: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies" focuses on the critical role creative marketing plays in our present society where change is not only inevitable but rapidly and constantly happening. In photo (standing from left) Henry Tenedero – NMC overall chair; Donald Patrick Lim – AVP for Marketing and Classifieds, PDI; (seated from left) Ma. Veronica Hizon – NMC director; Rene Reinoso – SVP for Marketing, PDI; and Dr. Leonardo Garcia – PMA president. For inquiries, call 8937127 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

Pres. Arroyo urged to start Entrepreneurial Revolution

COL. GERONIMO "Gerry" A. Dango, scientist/inventor of the world-famous magiclip document holder and founder of the Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (ESP), urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to spearhead the Philippine Entrepreneurial Revolution if she were to really go for the country's economic progress in real time.

DANGO

In a lecture before a group of entrepreneurship seminar participants, Dango said:

"The Philippines went through a hard-won independence – from various struggles against foreign aggression since the time of Lapu-Lapu down to the fight against a corrupt regime in People Power 2. Yet, all these revolutions, peaceful and otherwise, did not bring about economic freedom even after adopting nationalist campaigns such as the green revolution, cultural revolution and others. I believe that the most viable formula in wiping out poverty and turning the economy around is some sort of an 'entrepreneurial revolution' for small and medium businesses to provide jobs and create wealth."

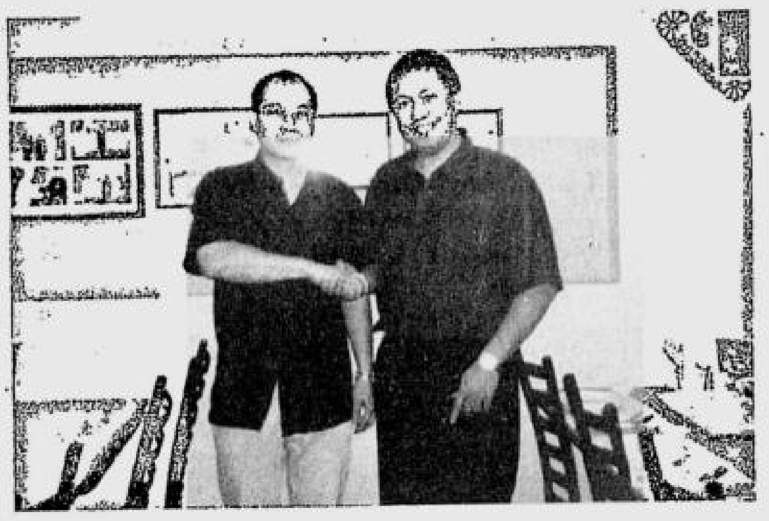
Dango, former military officer who rose from his impoverished childhood in the hinterlands of Mindanao to make his mark in the elite circle of "Who's who in the World," has made the campaign for entrepreneurship, a lifelong mission. A successful entrepreneur for the past 20 years, he continues to share his secrets of success with Filipinos via seminars on how to establish and manage small businesses at the Entrepreneurs Institute of the Philippines (722-1606) which he also founded.

Dango's first best-seller, "Entrepreneurs: Winning the Future" will soon be followed by a sequel, "How to Organize and Operate a Small Business," which promises to offer a lot more practical, no-nonsense tips and techniques to existing and potential entrepreneurs.

"There's a sense of urgency here. President Arroyo should give more teeth to government and private sector programs that will strongly support the creation of an Entrepreneurship Development Authority that will oversee all programs to this effect," Dango further stressed.

THE BAKERY EXCHANGE IN WORLD FOOD EXPO 2003. Bakerex, a company engaged in bakery equipment & technology will be one of the featured exhibitors of Baker's Fair, a co-located event of World food Expo 2003 (Wofex) to be held at the World Trade Center from August 6 to 9, 2003. Wofex also features worldwide food & beverages (import & export), food machinery (handling, processing, packaging). Taste Expo (series of culinary competitions) & the World Food Summit (free seminars & workshops by industry experts). Be part of this most anticipated food show in the country, call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (PEPGroup) at 4364711 to 12, 9297993 or 63, 4364898 or email at info@pepgroup.com. In photo from right is Mr. Dado Ng, president of Bakerex and Randy Manaloto VP of PEPGroup.

BACCHUS INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS WOFEX 2003. Known for its Fine French wines, Le Crueset cookware, Grand Chocolates from Valrhona, Fabri Syrups, Longobordi Tomatoes and Lavazza Italy's No. 1 Coffee, Bacchus International has chosen to support only one food major show in the country, the World Food Expo 2003 (Wofex). To be held at the World Trade Center from August 6 to 9, Wofex features worldwide food & beverages (import & export), food machinery (handling, processing, packaging) and the bakery industry (from ingredients to bakery equipment). Be part of this most anticipated food show in the country, call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (PEPGroup) at 4364711 to 12, 9297993 or 63, 4364898 or email at info@pepgroup.com. In photo from right is Rafael "Boydee" Dizon, chairman of PEPGroup and Alexander Lichaytoo, president of Bacchus International.



WORLD FOOD EXPO 2003 FEATURES CHEF WONG. Taste Expo, a co-located event in World Food Expo also known as WOFEX features World Cuisines where professional chefs show off their culinary expertise in specialty cuisines. In photo from left: multi-awarded Chef Wong of Cantonese Kitchen and Randy Manaloto, VP Finance of Premier Events Plus Group Inc. Wofex which will be held from August 6 to 9, 2003 at the World Trade Center, Pasay will also feature other specialty cuisines such as Mediterranean, Vietnamese, Japanese and a lot more. For any further information, call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (PEPGroup) at 4364711 to 12, 9297993 or 63, 4364898 or email at info@pepgroup.com. Don't miss this ultimate food show experience, August 6 to 9 at the World Trade Center.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 ANG TANGING INA	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS	ArtFilm 1 AUTO FOCUS (Exclusive) 12 30, 2 45, 5 00, 7 15, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 1 50 4 15 6 40 9 05 11 30	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED	2 ANG TANGING INA	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 10:55, 1:10, 3.25, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12 25 2 40 4 55 7 10 9 25 11 30	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3 PAKNER	THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 11 30, 2 15 5 00 7 45 10 30	VIVA ACOUSTIC NIGHT FEAT. SIDE A May 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 1 30 3 45 6 00 8 15 10 30	3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	4 FRIDA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 AGENT CODY BANKS 12 40 2 50 5 00 7 10 9 20 11 30	4 AGENT CODY BANKS
	5 AGENT CODY BANKS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12 40 3 15 5 50 8 25 11 00	5 ANG TANGING INA
	6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY			
	7 X-MEN 2			

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MMTA

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2 X-MEN-2

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1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

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(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
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2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

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4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 PAKNER
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY) FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
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2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 FRIDA
6 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 DAYO
9 AGENT CODY BANKS

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4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
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3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 KAPIT BAHAY
4 PAKNER
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
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1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
6 FRIDA
7 KAPITBAHAY

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0928
1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4 PAKNER

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4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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2 (DTS) PAKNER
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Lianas Cinema
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2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BAYARAN
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DAYOT
2 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS ES) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 (DTS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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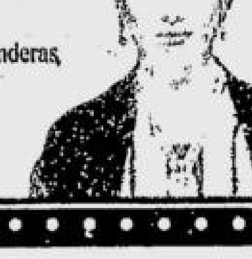

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4 PAKNERS
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 ANG KAPITBAHAY
8 FRIDA

SM CENTERPOINT
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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 ANG KAPITBAHAY
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6 RING 0
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 FRIDA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

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9350749
1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 FRIDA
3 X-MEN 2
4 AGENT CODY BANKS
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 PAKNERS
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 ANG KAPITBAHAY
11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12 DAYO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3 FRIDA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 ANG KAPITBAHAY
8 X-MEN 2
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 WALANG KAPALIT
11 PAKNERS
12 ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
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2 X-MEN 2
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 FRIDA
7 RING 0
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 PAKNERS
10 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
11 ANG TANGING INA
12 ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 FRIDA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 ANG KAPITBAHAY
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 AGENT CODY BANKS
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM SOUTHMALL
8069888
1 FRIDA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 PAKNERS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 AGENT CODY BANKS
10 ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 FRIDA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 PHONE BOOTH
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 PHONE BOOTH
2 CLOSED
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7 CLOSED
8 A MAN APART

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 ANG KAPITBAHAY
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 PAKNERS

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8294075
1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 FRIDA
3 PAKNERS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 ANG KAPITBAHAY
3 PAKNERS
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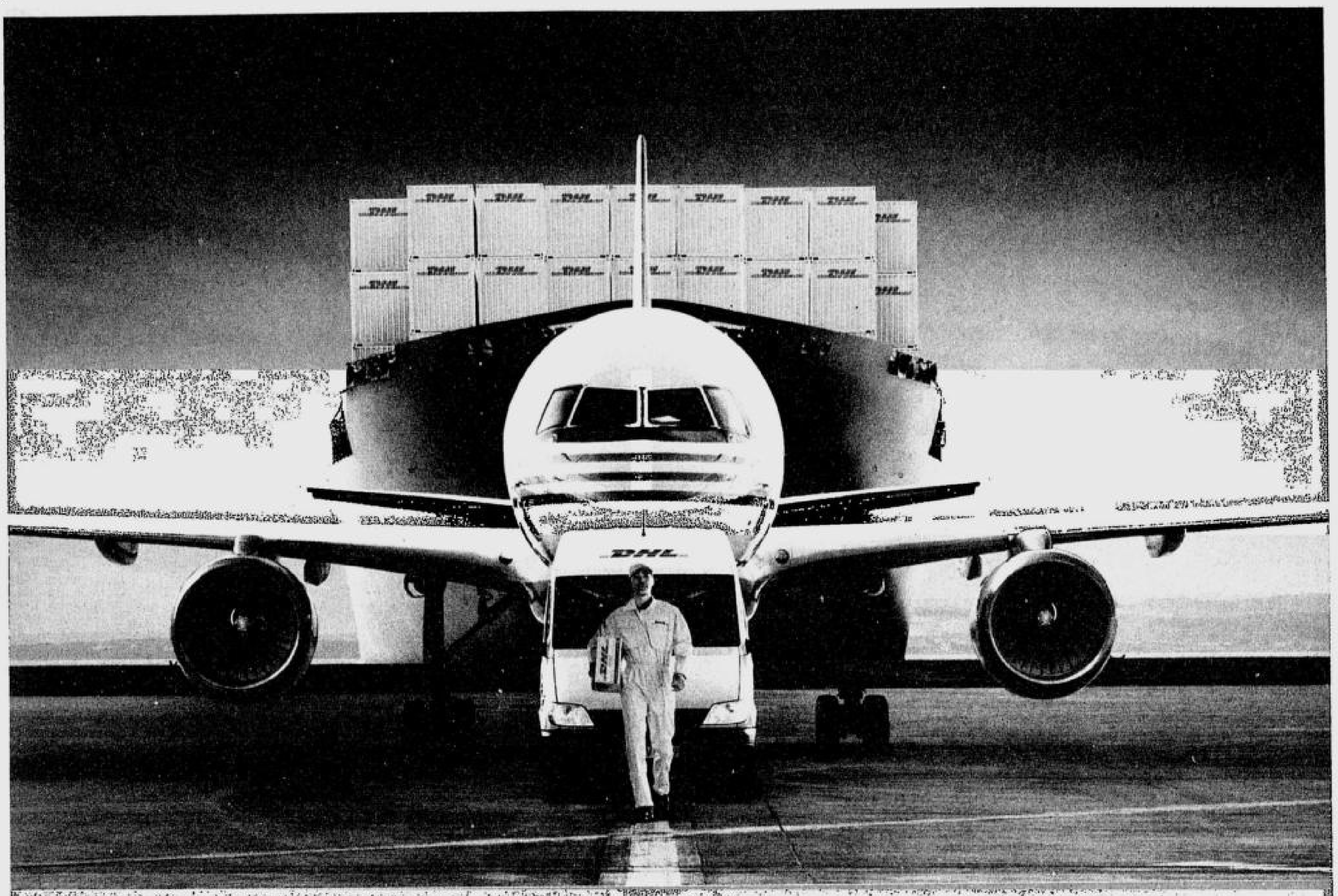

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Marketing is not only for selling

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

MARKETING is not just about selling shampoo, jeans and cars. It can also be used to unleash seismic waves of social change.

The term for this is social marketing, which guru Philip Kotler defines as "the design, implementation, and control of programs calculated to influence the acceptability of social ideas."

He notes that the usual marketing principles are transferable to the field, and it involves planning, communication and market research.

Raising awareness

How does a group go about social marketing? One must first be clear about the objectives of the campaign. An initial goal is cognitive change: to raise awareness and knowledge about the social issue.

A harder stage is to change attitudes and behavior. The target audience should be led to take a position for or against a particular proposal. This is difficult because people are slow to unlearn their old patterns of thought and to accept new positions.

Social marketing differs from commercial marketing as regard the audience. Firms often market to the segments that are most likely to accept the message (e.g. a clothing line for the 20-27 year old female segment). In contrast, social marketers often choose the segments that are either apathetic to the issue or opposed to it.

Traditional marketing mix

Social marketing takes into account the traditional marketing mix, also called the 4 Ps: product, price, place, and promotion.

The Product here is not the usual commercial product bound by three dimensions and piled on store shelves. Rather, it is the idea or social message to be conveyed.

The Price is not the peso price in commercial marketing.. Rather, it is the opposite of cost; it is the reward one gets for internalizing the message. For example, the reward may be thought of as "a better future for my kids." The reward should be specific and personalized.

The Place refers to broad distribution channels, or how to get the product to the public. In this case, one deals with ideas, so distribution overlaps with promotion.

Promotion concerns the specific tools for communicating the message. The promotion elements include billboards, barangay meetings, press conferences and training programs among NGOs.

A marketing strategy not only identifies the 4Ps, it also segments and positions the message. Campaigns fail if they try to reach out to everyone with a one-size-fits-all package. This requires an analysis of the target audience.

Focusing on target audience

Segmentation looks into demographics (age group, sex, region, income, etc.), and psychographics (values, attitudes). What are the target audiences' needs, motives, and perceptions on the issue?

Research uncovers their media habits (e.g. what newspapers they tend to read, what programs they watch, etc.). The messages are then crafted based on the analysis of the target audience, and the commercials are released.

To gauge the impact of the campaign, the team can run surveys on samples of the target groups.

Social marketing can and should be applied to anti-corruption drives. It is vital to change the public mindset along these two broad arenas: awareness and empowerment. The people should become aware of the specific ways corruption occurs. They should learn how to monitor and expose corrupt acts.

Take for example the bill to abolish the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and replace it with the National Authority for Revenue Administration (NARA). Outlined briefly, tax revenues have fallen sharply since 1998.

This hits the public hard in the form of poor

MARKETING/ B2-2

What A Woman Should Know About Hair Loss

Q. How can a woman tell if she has a hair loss problem?
A. Female hair loss usually appears as diffuse thinning, two hair strands where five used to be. There is overall thinning in the frontal and crown areas. As a result, excessive falling hair also occurs.

Q. What triggers hair loss among women?
A. During these fast-paced times, a woman is faced with various responsibilities, whether at work, at home, or in her social life. To cope with these stressful, high-pressure situations, a woman develops an aggressive temperament which stimulates testosterone, a male hormone that is also found in small amounts among women. This is converted into Dihydrotestosterone (DHT) which attacks the hair follicles and causes them to produce thinner hair strands until nothing regrows. DHT is also the main source of hair loss for men. Hormonal imbalances such as a sharp drop of estrogen that happens at the end of pregnancy or when a woman reaches menopause, for example, can cause hair loss. Overuse of styling aids can create damage that goes deep below the scalp's surface which will lead to hair loss. Unhealthy dietary habits can also result in hair loss. If a woman limits her food intake that borders on self-starvation, the body reacts by limiting the flow of nutrients to the hair to supply the more vital organs.

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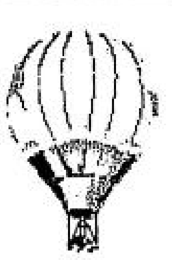

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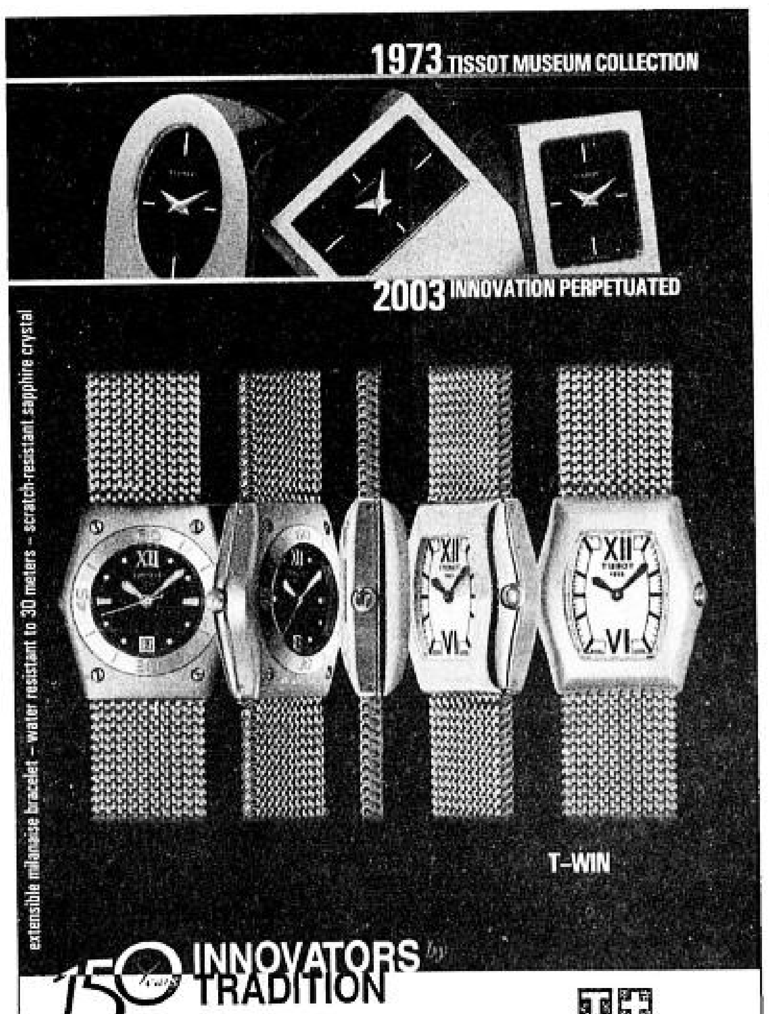
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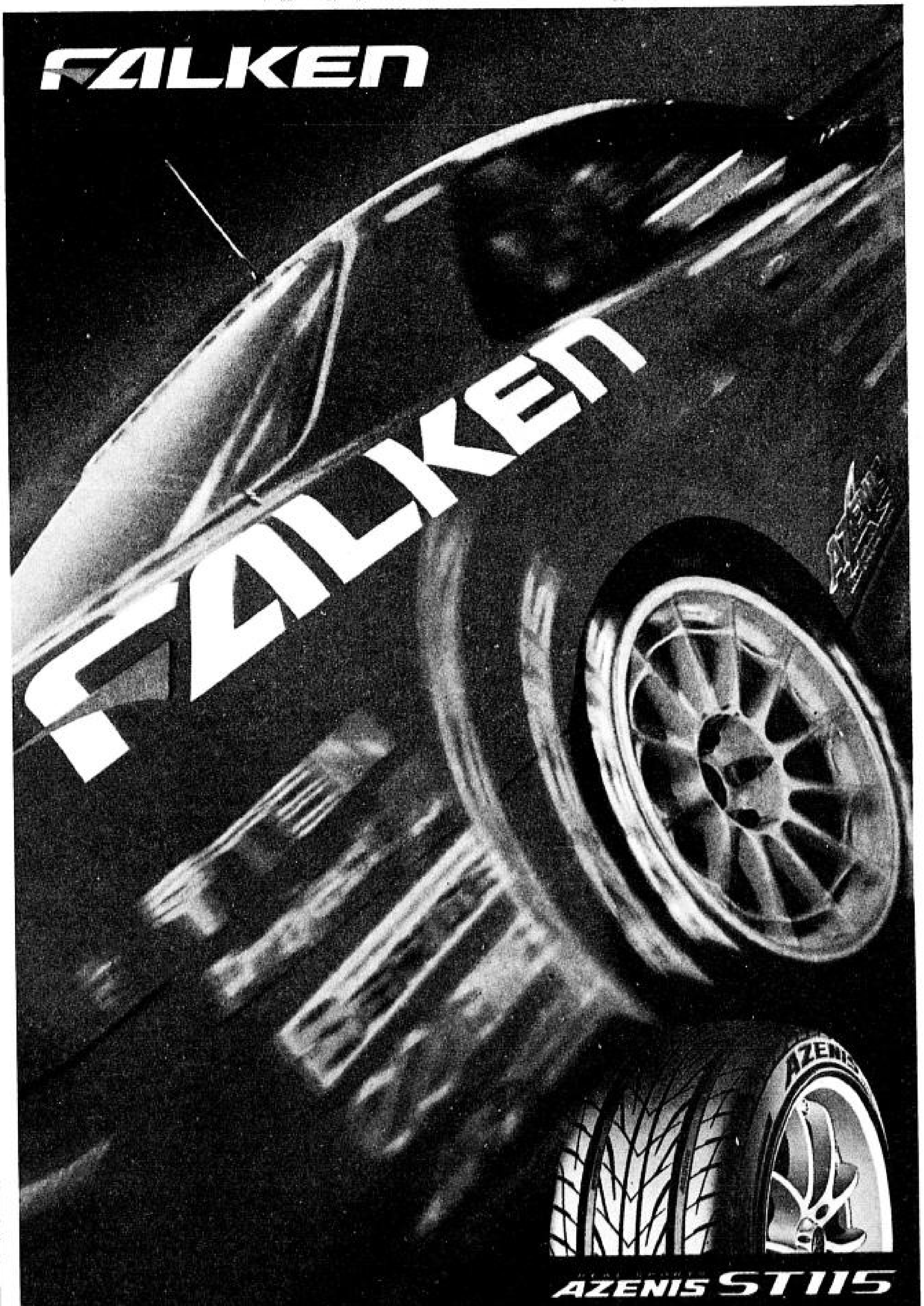

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Buying or selling property? Are you ready for the taxes?

TAX-TIPS

QUESTION: I have a parcel of land in the province. I have not built any building or made any improvements on the property. Now, I'm planning to start a business and will have to sell the land to raise capital. What are the taxes that I have to pay?

Answer: In general, the sale of real property classified as capital asset is subject to a six percent capital gains tax (CGT) based on the gross selling price or current fair market value whichever is higher. The sale shall likewise be subject to documentary stamp tax (DST) at the rate of P15 for every P1,000 based on the consideration contracted to be paid for such realty or its fair market value whichever is higher.

Within 30 days following the transaction, the CGT return must be filed and the tax paid to an authorized agent bank (AAB) or collection agent under the jurisdiction of the Revenue District Office (RDO) where the property being transferred is located. The DST return must be filed and the tax paid within five days after the close of the month when the Deed of Absolute Sale was executed. After paying, you must secure a Certificate Authorizing Registration (CAR)/Tax Clearance Certificate (TCL) from the RDO that has jurisdiction over the place the property is located to certify that the taxes due on the sale had been paid. The CAR/TCL is issued upon the seller's presentation of proof of actual full payment of CGT and DST due on the sale of real property. This will be required to transfer the title to the buyer.

Q: I just bought a piece of real property. The seller already paid the capital gains and the documentary stamp taxes on the transaction. Are there any other taxes or fees that must be paid before I can have the title transferred in my name?

A: Aside from the taxes payable to the national government, sale of real property will also be subject to local transfer tax. Under the Local Government Code, provinces are allowed to impose a tax on the transfer of real property at the rate of not more than 0.5 percent of the total consideration or the fair market value whichever is higher. On the other hand, the rates of local transfer tax in cities may be higher than 0.5 percent but not exceed 0.75 percent. The local transfer tax must be paid not later than 60 days from the date of execution of the deed of sale. Prior to the transfer of the property, you must also make sure that all the real property taxes on the property have been paid.

To transfer the title in your name, the Certificate Authorizing Registration/Tax Clearance Certificate and clearance from the local government unit concerned must be presented to the Register of Deeds together with the Deed of Sale and the title. The registration fee must be paid according to the schedule prescribed by the Land Registration Authority.

Q: I am planning to purchase a townhouse from a realty corporation which is the owner and developer of several other townhouses. Are there any taxes due on the transaction?

A: The transaction is subject to the creditable withholding tax, value-added tax, documentary stamp tax and local transfer tax.

Section 2.57.2(J) of Revenue Regulations No. 2-98, as amended, imposes a creditable withholding tax based on the gross selling price or the fair market value of the real property, whichever is higher, paid to the seller/owner on any sale, exchange or transfer of realty classified as ordinary asset. The rate of withholding tax depends on the selling price and on whether the seller/transferor is habitually engaged in the real estate business. The withholding tax is imposed on all types of sale-cash, installment, deferred-of realty classified as ordinary asset. In this case, the Realty Corporation is engaged in the real estate business and the townhouse is classified as ordinary asset. Hence, the sale shall be subject to creditable withholding tax which shall be withheld by the buyer.

The buyer, being the withholding agent, is required to remit the tax withheld to the BIR within 10 days after the end of the month in which the withholding was made.

Since the seller is a real estate dealer, the sale of the townhouse is subject to the 10 percent VAT. The seller may pass on to the buyer the 10 percent VAT as part of the selling price. The transaction will also be subject to DST (discussed in question #1) and local transfer tax (discussed in question #2).

(Tax Tips is a public service of SGV & Co., to give readers a general and basic understanding of current tax laws, applicable rulings, existing regulations, and jurisprudence based on the facts as represented. Answers to queries may not cover all potential tax liabilities and issues arising from and all reportorial requirements for taxable transactions. Readers are therefore strongly advised to consult their tax advisers or the Bureau of Internal Revenue. In no event shall SGV & Co. be liable for damages or claims, actual or otherwise, including those arising from tax assessments, on account of any advice given by Tax Tips. *For feedback, e-mail sgv_information@sgv.com.ph.)*

TORREJON

Success in the brewing business takes more than just opening a shop

SUCCESS in the coffee business takes more than just a desire to open a shop that serves coffee and ambiance.

The French have been doing it for years—sitting in sidewalk cafes, while sipping a nice, hot cup of coffee. But the rest of the world didn't catch on until a popular coffee chain in Seattle opened branches all over the world, including the Philippines. The coffee industry was never the same.

Coffee shops are opening all over Metro Manila thanks to the young people in particular. They are now the hottest places to see and be seen. It seems that the money is on the hot, bittersweet brew that have been keeping people awake for centuries.

According to Manny Torrejon, success in the coffee business takes more than just a desire to open a shop that serves coffee and ambiance. Torrejon has been in the coffee industry for years, roasting coffee and dealing in coffee machines as president of Cafex, distributor of the Reneka and Saeco espresso machines. He is also a self-confessed coffee addict.

"Most people use coffee as an instant *pampagising.* But good coffee must be sipped and enjoyed," he insists.

A science and an art

Torrejon explains that most people involved in the business are not coffee drinkers themselves. This is a problem because those who do not drink coffee cannot tell good coffee from bad. He emphasizes on hiring people who know coffee.

"Coffee is both a science and an art. It is an art because there is creativity involved. Coffee is a work of art, presentation-wise. At the same time, it is a science because making espresso requires exactness in terms of the type of coffee, the quantity of water, the pressure," Torrejon relates.

He also stresses that the business is for those who are willing to spend a lot: "You need money to invest in an espresso machine. You get more out of an expensive, good quality machine than an inexpensive one whose quality may not be that good. *Nagkakatalo iyan sa lasa.* (The difference is in the taste.)"

He suggests the one-group machine for those who are just starting out. This is an espresso machine that has one group head; it can make one kind of coffee at a given time. When the business expands, the owner can then invest in the four-group machine that has four group heads and can make four different kinds of coffee drinks at the same time.

Quality and strategy then come into play. Torrejon states that a person must create a coffee shop with "a proper mix of coffee, pastries and ambiance. Quality has to be there. Also, consider your positioning."

Baristas

Torrejon urges coffee shop owners to consider the people who will make the coffee—the baristas. Good baristas do not simply prepare coffee, pour it in mugs and serve it with cake or pastries. If coffee is considered cuisine, then baristas are chefs

SUCCESS/ B2-3

If you can't go abroad to have conference, have it here in a hotel

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FEARS of contracting the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome have forced multinational corporations to restrict travel of their employees.

In the United States, the restricted travel caused a surge in the use of videoconferencing facilities, as it was the next best thing to conducting meetings face to face.

The same trend is seen in the Philippines, which is surrounded by SARS-stricken countries such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

Videoconferencing facilities, however, are expensive. It was for this reason that The Peninsula Manila decided early this year to convert one of its 13 function rooms into a full-time technically enhanced boardroom to respond to the clamor of its business clients for the latest in meeting facilities, at reasonable prices.

The Rizal Boardroom is equipped with a Communication and Computer Link or CCL conference table, which has built-in individual data ports for up to 24 computers. This innovation frees guests' working areas from the usual clutter of unsightly cords and wire connections.

But the main attraction is the 3M digital wall display, which combines the functions of a multimedia projector, digital whiteboard, write-on copy board, TV monitor and loudspeakers.

The 3M wall display allows the users to print notes directly without using a computer. Data written on the wall display can also be saved directly to the laptop.

THE PENINSULA Manila converted the Rizal ballroom into a high-tech meeting room.

Multinational companies Johnson & Johnson and California Energy as well as the Asian Development Bank are among the regular users of The Rizal Boardroom as the state-of-the art wall display makes for better presentations and easier communication with colleagues in other places.

The Peninsula Manila, the first hotel in Asia to install the 3M Digital Wall Display Unit, charges about P10,000 for the rent of the equipment from 8 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon.

Marivic Marquez, banquet sales manager of the Manila Pen, says that demand for the facilities has been picking up, partly due to the travel ban and the pick-up in business activity.

The conversion of The Rizal Boardroom into a meeting facility is just one of many state-of-the-art facilities that the hotel offers its guests. Another service is the free broadband Internet access to all guests.

Shipping Harry Potter's magic may prove tricky

NEW YORK—The new Harry Potter book promises to be a boon for distributors and shippers across the world, but it could turn into a nightmare as they scramble to deliver it to millions of readers on the June 21 launch date.

Falling on the first day of summer, the launch date may prove to be the longest day, indeed, for the armies of couriers struggling to make Harry's magic appear on cue.

Fears that the book could potentially leak onto the Internet or even street corners before its official release, has printers, retailers, freight firms and the publisher maintaining a veil of secrecy on anything surrounding its pending shipment into thousands of stores and homes.

"The potential for the launch to be a logistical nightmare is there," said Carrie Johnson, an analyst at Forrester Research.

The book's launch is expected to mark the largest single online distribution event of any one item, with hundreds of thousands of copies already pre-ordered over the Internet.

Online retailer Amazon.com has an added pressure: It promised those who pre-ordered by a certain date that they would receive the book on the very day it's launched—which happens to be a Saturday.

Even though book distributors and retailers claim to have had enough time to prepare for the book's debut, concerns abound about how timely and fool-proof its delivery will be.

Muggles in a muddle?

Judy Corman, a spokesperson for Scholastic Corp., which has US publishing rights to the Harry Potter series, said the company and its partners have put up such tight security for the book she doesn't want to even talk about it.

"We have a very good security policy in place, very similar to what we did with 'Harry and the Goblet of Fire'. "It's confidential," said Corman. "We hope a muggle does not spoil this."

A muggle, as defined in the Harry Potter series, is someone lacking "magical powers."

Michael Friedman, an analyst who tracks the book distributing industry for Sidoti & Company, said security often came to the fore once a highly anticipated product starts making its way toward its final destination, when a lot of people get engaged in the process.

"This is the same sort of problem you have with movies and music, when someone down the line either becomes negligent or something beyond their control happens," he said.

Even the US Postal Service has been tapped for the big delivery, according to Amazon.

J.K. Rowling's upcoming "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is the fifth book in her Harry Potter series, with a massive initial print-run, of which an unprecedented 8.5 million copies have been earmarked for the United States alone.

The new book has a suggested retail price of $29.99, but its now offered for as low as $15.79 at discounters like Costco Wholesale Corp. *Reuters*

Marketing is not only for selling

From page B2-1

services like under-funded schools, roads, and hospitals.

A main culprit is corruption among revenue agents: the latter allow massive tax evasion in exchange for bribes. NARA confronts this corruption, for the pay of the revenue officials and employees will depend on their collections.

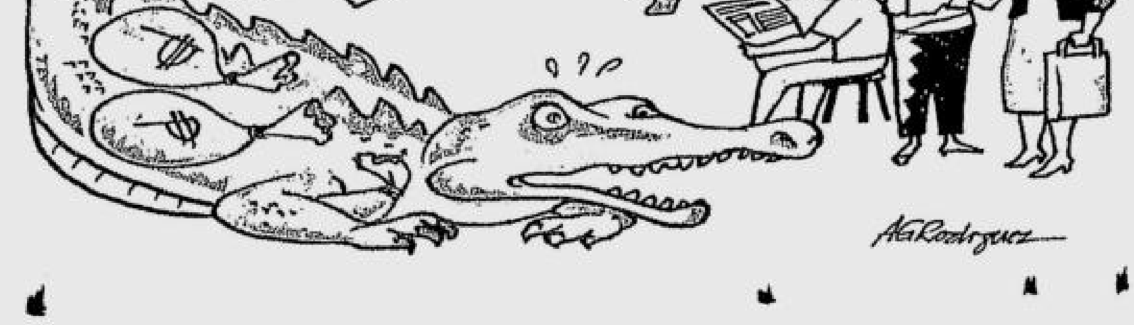
How then should the NARA bill, the "product," be marketed? The audience must first be identified. Those who want to keep enriching themselves via tax bribes will prefer to retain the status quo. They will lobby hard in Congress, so there is a need for a counter-force.

Reformers can rely on the galaxy of civic groups in the Philippines, often called civil society. They are the target audience.

Raising awareness is the next step. The key messages outlined above should be conveyed to the civic organizations through presentations, dialogs and primers. These are the "promotions."

Talks will let them see how their efforts to serve the poor are subverted by massive tax evasion. Hence, raising society's welfare is the "price" aspect.

After awareness comes empowerment. Talks will help the groups know that the draft law can knock away a huge chunk of corruption. And that they can help Congress pass it. Armed with this knowledge, they can embolden the Senators and Representatives to embark on the radical change. *(Comments to darroyo@philonline.com)*



To sell houses, bring these to the market

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

WHEN the Ayala group decided to tap into the middle income market, it adopted variations in the marketing schemes it uses when selling to the rich, its traditional market.

"We brought the product to the market," says Jonathan Umali, project development head of Community Innovations Inc., the wholly owned Ayala Land Inc. subsidiary which develops real estate geared towards the middle income group.

By Ayala's definition, the middle income market refers to a household earning at least P80,000 to P170,000 a month.

"Dual income families, bank managers, middle scale entrepreneurs; those who have Internet access, have traveled at lease once in their life; have taste, know what they want and know what they can afford." describes Umali.

For CII's first two projects, what they did was set up model units in the malls.

For the first development—the Verdana Homes—they set up a model unit at the Alabang Town Çenter. In one year they sold all the 580 lots and have ten houses left of the 88 they built. Prices here cost between P4 and P6 million. The development is in Cavite.

Its second project is The Columns, a three tower condominium development at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat and Ayala Aves. Model units were created at the Glorietta.

Umali says they realize that putting model units in the malls reaches their target market. Thus the first tower of The Columns—with 284 units—was sold out in four months. He says this was even before they advertised.

Half of the units of the second tower, also with 284, have been sold.

Of course Ayala's advantage is that it owns the malls the units are displayed in and can therefore give good lease spaces to the showcases. Other developers would not have the same easy access as mall owners charge on a square meter basis.

The Ayala developments are all pre-selling. When one goes to the corner of Ayala and Buendia, one will hardly see anything.

But that, according to Umali, is also the advantage of the project.

The Columns will actually be finished in three years yet, but the buyers are given the same time to finish paying the downpayment. The balance is paid upon completion of the project with financing options.

He says half of the buyers for the Columns are end-users while the other half are investors, as is the usual profile of condominium buyers.

The 34-year old Umali says some of those who bought for investments are first time buyers who shifted their investment portfolio into real estate.

He admits that Ayala is a newcomer in the middle market segment. This has been traditionally dominated by Megaworld or Brittany.

"The condominium market is a niche. There are packets of opportunities and we believe we hit on a rich deposit. Traditionally people don't want to live in condominiums but during the last two to three years there has been an increase," he explains.

This changing lifestyle has actually boosted its sales.

He says many do not want to commute for hours to get from their homes to their place of work such that those with houses outside the metropolis, usually only go home during weekends.

Many young people he says are opting not to immediately have a family and prefer to live in condominiums.

At the same time young families who prefer the convenience of condominium living.

And he says "the demographics of families is that they are getting smaller."

Recognizing that families are opting to stay in condominiums, Umali says the Columns development is among the first ones to put facilities that cater to residents with children.

UMALI looks over the designs with his team.

"**CHANGING** lifestyles helped boost sales."

Success . . .

From page B2-2

who concoct coffee recipes.

Torrejon trains baristas and knows what qualities to look for in them. He defines a barista as "a person who creates coffee drinks using an espresso machine. Someone who knows how to freestyle, like a chef. He has to create the recipe, not read recipe books."

He states that not all baristas are created equal. There are those who might work as baristas because they need the job, but that will not make them good baristas. "To be a good barista, you need passion. You want to create a good espresso, and this is difficult to make. You may say you need a job, but this will not give you an eye for good coffee."

Torrejon enumerates the qualities of a good barista: "A good barista should have discipline, because making coffee is a science. He knows the proper grind, the proper temperature in making espresso. He reads and researches good coffee. He knows, for example, the difference between a dry cappuccino and a wet cappuccino. He should be able to do latte art. If he has creativity and passion, he will go far."

Innovate and re-engineer

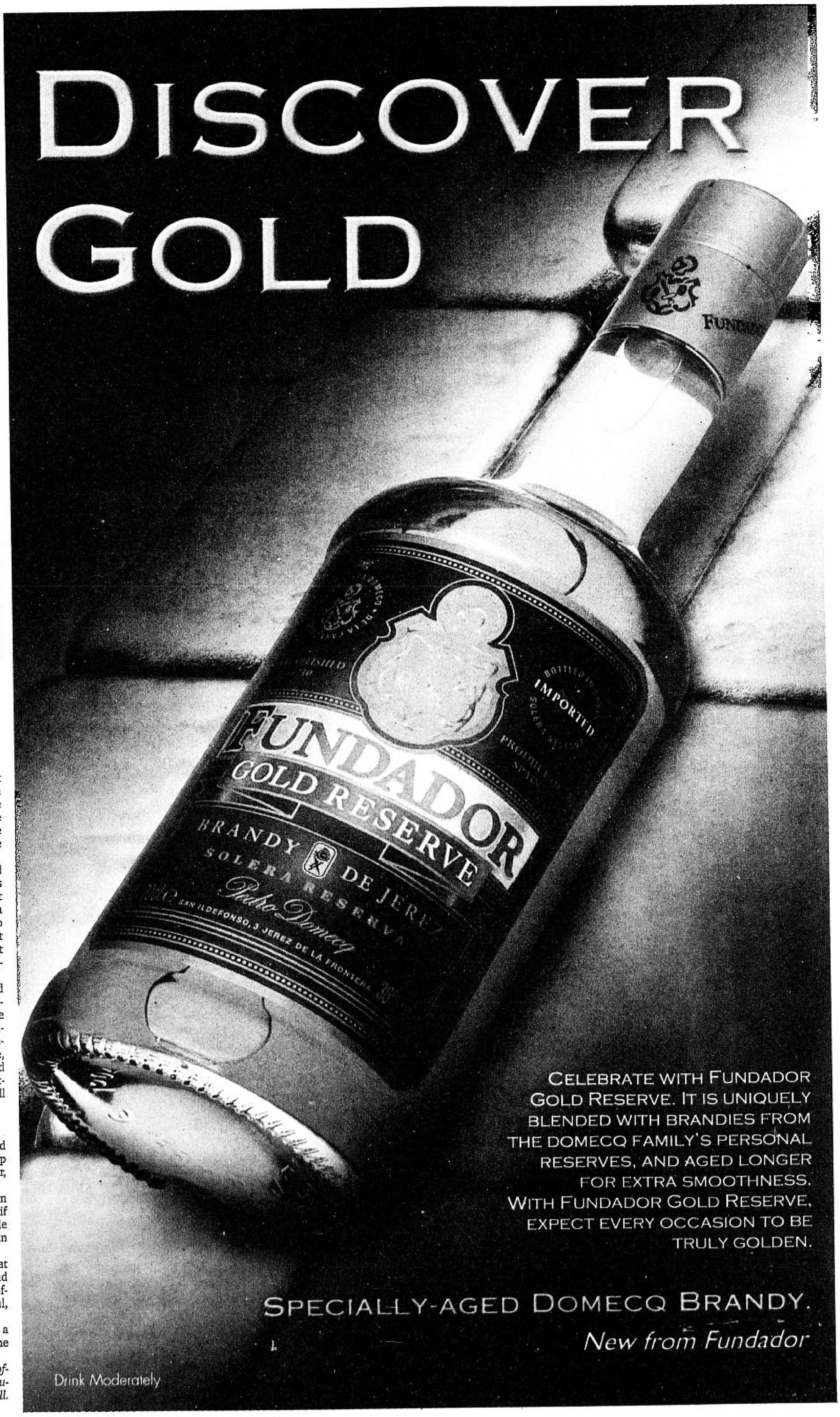
Success in the coffee business can depend on so many things that it is hard to come up with a single formula. Torrejon, however, knows where many in the business fail.

"They fail to innovate. With all the foreign entrants, especially, you have to innovate if you want to stay in the business. With a single product, you can innovate and re-engineer in so many different ways."

He cites coffee chains and companies that keep coming out with new coffee blends and new flavor combinations for hot and cold coffee. He himself has tasted some wonderful, innovative concoctions here and abroad.

"Ultimately, what you are creating is a strong brand. And that is hard to make," he concludes.

Torrejon is an exhibitor at the upcoming Coffee, Tea & Specialty Beverage Trade Show on July 4-6 at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall. For inquiries, call 896-0682 or 897-0139.



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Drink Moderately

This Aling Maria never knew strategic planning

By Salvador I. Sibayan
Contributor

THERE are a lot of Aling Marias out there. But this one is different. True, she never went past high school, but she knew what she wanted to be—a successful *tindera* like her mother. She had defined her mission the way strategic planners do. But unlike her mother, she wanted to be bigger and better. She wanted to operate more than just a *sari-sari* store. She wanted a mini-grocery.

So she expanded the frontage of their house and stocked the same items as the other *sari-sari* stores in the neighborhood—plus so much more, including school supplies. Going by current prices, she started out with P1.5 million. But at the time it was easily less than a third of this.

She matched the prices of her competitors. But unlike them, she was the first to open and the last to close. By doing so, she served the needs of the customers of stores that still had to open or had closed for the day.

With each working day, she managed to increase her sales and had repeat customers. She knew she was making a small profit out of every transaction.

At the same time, she unknowingly provided convenience to her customers, not only in terms of location, but also of time. She had gone through a process of setting objectives. She knew how to beat the competition by formulating strategy.

To get the job done right, she asked her growing brood of four daughters to pitch in during their free time. She advised them never to be *suplada*, extend credit to or shortchange their customers. By setting some sort of ground rules, she determined policies.

Aling Maria realized that her bestsellers were cigarettes. To bring down her cost, she started getting these in bulk, not by the carton but by the box. Pretty soon, she was supplying the needs of other stores nearby. She followed this by becoming a wholesaler of soft drinks. All these while maintaining her mini-grocery.

In effect, she established several programs. The first was procurement—buying products as cheaply as possible without going for lower quality brands. The second was inventory control, for scheduling purchases at a proper time to minimize stock-outs and lost sales. And lastly, a program of managing her cash so that she had enough to pay for her purchases.

This practice went on for several years with Aling Maria building up her capital by living within—or even below her means.

When I told her that one should only consume the profit realized and never the capital, she corrected me by saying, "One should only eat one-third of the profit!"

So when the opportunity of having a stall in a public market came up, she had the money for the rights and the goods she had to buy. Knowing how much she needed to stock her mini-grocery and how much she made in a day, she knew how much the stall could make. Mentally, she had prepared cost and expense estimates and sales forecasts.

Since she still had to mind her grocery, she asked one daughter to forget about going to college and instead take charge of the market stall. She told her daughter to operate the market stall the same way as they run the *sari-sari* store. Aling Maria had specified procedures.

They kept receipts, but never maintained records. To know how much they made in a day, they simply added the day's sales and applied an average mark-up on what they sold to arrive at their net profit. With this, the mother-daughter tandem determined its measure of performance.

Aling Maria no longer operates her grocery. By using the same time-tested formula, she now operates her own private market, renting out stalls—including one to her daughter.

(For inquiries on small business management training programs, write or call the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries at Virata Hall, UP Diliman Campus, Tel. 9287076, and 9296923 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph)

MINI GROCERY
SARI-SARI STORE

When learning to stitch becomes budget-busting act

WITH the plaguing economy, challenging mothers to resort to various means to stretch the household budget, the family-centered domestication is taken to a higher level.

Nowadays, mother figures can be breadwinners as well as allies to their spouses' laborious process to fill the abode's treasure bin. Realizing that her duty should go beyond her chores, mothers are now conscious with their budgeting and are financially creative in some sense. All decisions are well-thought of.

One option for mothers to earn extra is through the scheme provided by Singer.

A purchase of a Singer sewing machine, entitles the buyers to free sewing lessons.

The hope is that the women can use their spare time to make clothes for kids, or doing simple alterations for the next-door neighbor. Their stitching routine can become a money-making venture.

An embroidering hobby can in fact balloon to be a small-sized enterprise of churning out simple items like embroidered pillowcases, potholders and towels, stuffed dolls or bags with dainty patchwork.

But aside from making profit from mending, alterations and other clothing construction, mothers can look forward to a lucrative relationship with Singer. The company has expanded its direct sales strategy beyond the sewing machine scheme.

With the Singer sewing machine being marketed directly and on installment, this creates an entrepreneurial opportunity.

The Singer company thought it best to expand its offerings beyond the popular Singer sewing machine.

Singer agents have been aggressively promoting and selling consumer durables like beds, refrigerators, washing machines, gas ranges, home entertainment systems and other furniture.

The product line is sourced from various well-known manufacturers.

To be a Singer direct seller, a lifetime membership of P385 is required to be paid. This fee covers discounted rates in purchasing Singer products and related marketing literature. A one-year personal accident insurance is even offered. The direct selling deal is even made appealing since aside from the 25-percent sales commission one is bound to get from successful deals, the overriding commission rate (ranging from 2 to 8 percent) is also offered when other people are enjoined to form a direct seller's downline.

Starting the Singer business is easy. With just a P5,000 bond, you can be a Singer sales agent who enjoy generous commissions, as long as the proper papers from Department of Trade are secured.

All Singer borrowers are asked to pay at least 20 percent of the cost for their product purchases and the balance can be settled in 24 months. If the remainder of the purchase cost fails to be settled, the appliance units are then returned. The scheme is so sensible that extra money is earned by getting the 10 percent commission from the gross sale of products and another 10 percent in monthly collections. On the other hand, mothers who have a little more spare cash in their coffers can go big time and put up their own Singer outlet for a fee of P100,000.

(For more info, call 527-9958 if you are in Metro Manila or 1-800-100-SINGER (746437) if you reside in the provinces.)

THE SINGER Sewing ladies with Willie Roldan, director for sales and receivables of Singer.

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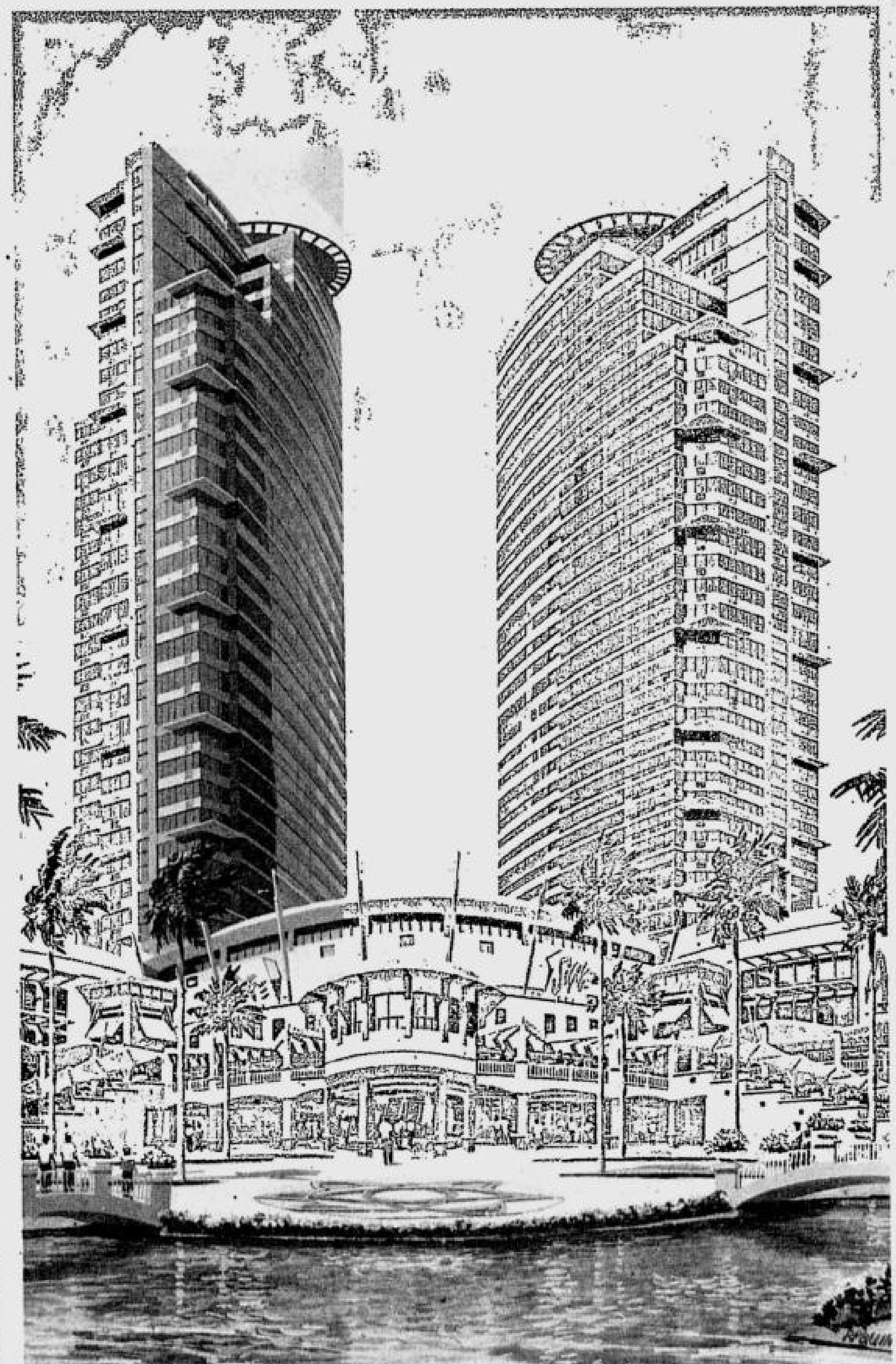

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For Announcement Purposes Only

Young entrepreneur creates business out of pleasure

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY - JASON Garrido, 35, sells mountaineering and camping equipment and operates a wall-climbing gymnasium, which is located just beside his store. He is also an athletic person who loves the outdoors.

During summer, Jason and his friends usually go camping, trekking, mountaineering, biking or rock climbing either here in Leyte or in places like Davao, Boracay and Bacolod. Actually, they would do these things any time of the year when the weather is good, but it is during the summer school break that they have enough time for days of real adventure.

They would also pump up their adrenaline through sport climbing, an activity that has lured many young men and women and even children here, in Jason's covered gymnasium. The place now has four indoor artificial rock climbing walls with a total area of 864 square meters.

And Jason's friends buy the outdoor gear they all need, like backpacks, caps and even camping tents and bicycles, from his store. This is aside from the many walk-in customers, mostly students, who prefer to buy the durable backpacks with a popular brand at his shop.

Nature Unlimited

An outdoor sports enthusiast since his younger days, Jason is one of the founders of the Nature Unlimited-Leyte Outdoor Club based in Tacloban City. He is at present also the vice president for the Visayas of the Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines, Inc. (Scapi) and a member of the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines.

It was this pastime that prompted him to open a sports gear shop in Tacloban City. "At that time there was no store in Tacloban selling outdoor gear, and whenever I go to Cebu City some of my friends would ask me to buy for them some equipment they needed," he recalls.

In 1992, with a friend as partner, Jason opened a small store that is aptly called "Bukid." But after about three years, his friend left the partnership "to seek greener pasture." This made Jason the sole owner of the store located along Burgos Street.

"All our goods are being sold on a consignment basis," Jason discloses. He says the owners of the Habagat sports gear that he has been selling are friends he has known in Cebu City when he was still taking up aviation electronics and communications at the University of San Carlos. He was then a member of a mountaineering club in school.

Although he later transferred to the Philippine Airforce College of Aeronautics where he graduated in 1989, Jason's passion for the outdoors did not wane. When he returned to Tacloban, he organized in 1990 the Nature Unlimited-Leyte Outdoor Club. Through this club he met many young people in Tacloban who are also mountaineering enthusiasts. He also encouraged others to join the club, explaining that meeting the challenge of outdoor living would give them a sense of self-confidence.

A couple of years after he organized the local chapter of the outdoor club, Jason found himself an instant entrepreneur. His used his savings to start his store and later borrowed P50,000 from an uncle when he decided to set up a gymnasium. The loan has long been paid off. His store and gymnasium stand on a lot owned by his parents.

GARRIDO started out with people asking him to buy things. VEN LABRO

Young and still a bachelor then, Jason at first did not take seriously his being a businessman. But as years passed, he realized that the profit from his outdoor gear store could more than support his lifestyle.

Later on, he expanded his business by putting up a 12 feet by 25 feet artificial rock climbing wall in an open space beside his store. In 1999, he set up three more climbing walls and had the open area covered so that customers can work out even when there's rain.

One of its kind

Jason's gymnasium is one of its kinds not only in Leyte but also in the whole of Eastern Visayas. At present, the rate he charges each customer is P70 per day for the use of the gymnasium from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jason says his gymnasium now has an average of 10 customers per day, which is higher than the average of seven customers when the place was still without roofing.

When he was setting up the gymnasium, Jason already had a vision of forming a team who would someday compete in sport climbing competitions in the country. He did just that a few months after the gym opened by organizing the "Team Bukid."

Aside from being the proprietor of the gymnasium, Jason also became a trainer of a small group of young boys and girls and teenagers who are all determined to make it to the national sport climbing competitions.

Among the members of the Team Bukid is Joanne Crisostomo Songalia, eldest of the two children of Emmanuel and April Rose Songalia of Tacloban City, who bagged the bronze medal in the recent Asian Juniors X-Games competition.

Joanne, who is Jason's godchild, was just a 7-year-old Grade I pupil when she first visited the gymnasium. She recalls that it was her *ninong* Jason who prodded her to try artificial rock climbing, but she declined at first because she was scared.

A few days later she gave in to her ninong's prodding and started scaling the walls after her classes and during the weekends. Then in 2000, when she was already 12 years old, Joanne had her first exposure in national competitions but did not win any prize.

She made her mark in 2001 when she won in the San Mig Light national competition at the Glorietta in Makati City. She emerged the champion in the Junior category (15 years old or below) in this competition, and this qualified her to join the 2002 Junior X-Games Asia in Kuala Lumpur where she placed 5th overall.

In 2002, she also grabbed the championship in the junior category of the national competition at the Ayala Center in Cebu City.

Another girl from Team Bukid, Trisha Yaokasin, placed third in that contest. Joanne's topping the national competition gave her another chance to represent the country in the Junior X-Games, also held in Kuala Lumpur early this year. This time she came home with a bronze medal.

Joanne, who is now in third year high school and who will turn 16 this coming December, says she hopes to compete someday in the main category of the Asian X-Games. In the meantime, she says, she will continue with her work out at her *ninong*'s gymnasium to increase her stamina and power so that she could match her rivals.

Joanne's feat made Jason proud not only because she is his godchild but also for her having proven that his humble gymnasium can make a winner despite its small size and being located in the province.

Although his artificial rock climbing walls continue to attract young people to the world of sports, Jason admits in an interview that it is his shop that is subsidizing the gymnasium. But he quickly adds that it is the gymnasium that "carries the image" of his business.

Business 'secret'

Asked of his secret in running his business, he reveals that since he started his enterprise he has considered himself an employee with a fixed salary. The net profit all goes back to his enterprise as additional asset, he says.

Jason, now married with a one-year-old daughter, still indulges in outdoor adventure. But this time he is more serious in running his businesses, which complement each other and at the same time provide him the opportunity to indulge in his passion for outdoor adventure.

In fact, he has long been mixing business with pleasure. Or is it pleasure with business?

JOANNE Songalia during a wall climbing workout.

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City Walk I: The meeting place of choice for lovers of food *and* fun

Reinventing the metro's dining and leisure scene, City Walk I draws the beautiful people to its vibrant, lush and pedestrian-friendly streetscape—and its alfresco feasts, outdoor concerts and shows. This day-and-night fun hub abounds with trendy restaurants, cafés and bistros that dish up gastronomic specialties from the East and West.

City Walk II: More options for filling up and chilling out

Lined up along City Walk II are more dining and entertainment choices for Eastwood habitués. By December this year, this expansion of City Walk I will introduce a digital cinema complex plus a bowling and billiard center. Echoing the Miami look of Eastwood Parkview, City Walk II will host shops and cafés surrounded by palm trees.

Fashion Square and The Home Center: The essentials of style for you and your home

Set within City Walk I, **Fashion Square** is a beauty and lifestyle hub offering signature evening and wedding gowns, elegant hairstyles, trendy nail designs and lovely flower arrangements. **The Home Center** along Orchard Road showcases a variety of design options—from furniture to accessories and decors—to recreate the home along European, American and Asian themes.

Fitness First: An internationally renowned fountain of well-being

Fitness First offers first-rate gym equipment, facilities and services, with customized exercise programs and special health and fitness packages available to members. It is situated at the ground floor of TechnoPlaza One, within easy reach of both the homes and the offices of Eastwood City.

Robinsons Choice: Everyday shopping convenience

Located at the ground level of Tower 2 of Olympic Heights, Robinsons Choice gives shoppers everything from canned goods to fresh foodstuffs at reasonable prices.

The CyberMall: A one-stop hub for the latest IT and electronics gadgets

Inspired by Hong Kong's IT malls, this one-stop hub offers electronic appliances, computing devices and mobile phones at the podium of the Cyber One building. Its other attractions are a food court, network gaming arcades and Internet cafés. Set to open by July 2003, the CyberMall brings together leading names such as General Electric, Globe Telecom, Electroworld and Semicon.

CyberPark: *The* technology workplace

Home to a formidable roster of infotech companies such as IBM, Citibank, eTelecare International, Trend Micro, TOEI Animation and BayanTrade.com, the Eastwood City CyberPark boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure and telecommunication facilities as befits its stature as the country's premier IT zone. It has promoted Filipino talent and expertise in various IT fields—from call centers to animation and anti-virus software development.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Makati Medical Center marks 34th year

MAKATI Medical Center, the country's premier medical institution, will celebrate its 34th founding anniversary on May 31.

Inaugurated May 31, 1969, MMC started as an 11-story building with a 500-bed capacity and was then one of the most modern hospitals in the Far East. At that time, it was already equipped with the most modern facilities, most of which were "firsts" in the Philippines and in Asia and were comparable with those of the leading medical centers in Europe and the United States. The center also introduced in the country the latest concept of hospital administration concerning the admission of charity patients. Indigent patients were admitted on a selective basis and could avail themselves of the same facilities and services open to paying patients. Now with improved world-class medical services, Makati Medical Center was recently cited by an international certifying body, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

From ISO 9002 awarded to MMC in May 2001, the hospital recently received the prestigious ISO 9001:2000 (9K2K) quality certification from TUV Suddeutchland, one of the largest bodies for certification and testing in the world, for the dedication and commitment of its management and staff to deliver the best medical services to all their patients.

This comes close on the heels of MMC receiving the Asian Hospital Management Awards 2002 best customer service award and five runner-up prizes in Bangkok.

Dr. Ruprecht Schattner, president and CEO of TUV Suddeutchland Asia Pacific Group, presented the ISO 9K2K certification to MMC president and medical director Raul G. Fores.

Schattner said the ISO 9K2K is a difficult audit and he commended the staff of MMC for their dedication to their patients' welfare, seeing them as a happy staff in a caring work environment.

According to him, he sees the commitment of the MMC management to quality and that it has given its support to its medical staff all the way, even as he noted that the whole organization was involved in surmounting the challenges to make its systems conform to international standards.

In brief remarks, Fores said he accepted the awards on behalf of MMC's patients, emphasizing that if their quality systems are adjudged world-class, it is because its dedicated staff have made them so for their patients.

With the ISO 9001:2000, MMC remains to be among the top 30 medical institutions worldwide, a recognition bestowed on it in May 2002 when it was conferred ISO 9002 and EN (European Norm) 46002.

MMC was the first hospital in Asia to be given the EN award, and it became the only hospital in the region to have a dual certification from ISO.

MMC is now a 700-bed tertiary hospital considered not just as the country's premier medical center, but as a world-class health care provider with sophisticated medical and surgical facilities.

GLOBE-HERSHEY'S PROMO PICKS BAGUIO HOUSEWIFE

Globe, the country's leader in digital communication, has recently awarded Batty Aduan of Baguio City P500,000 for winning the grand prize in the recently concluded Gloeb-Hershey's Kisses promo. The Baguio housewife opted to have her grand prize all-expense-paid-trip to the Hershey Chocolate World in Pennsylvania converted to cash so she could pay for her glaucoma-stricken sister's surgery. Betty's good fortune was brought about when she bought a Globe Hi-Memory SIM sometime in March.

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MATWOOD PICKS WINNERS FOR PROMO

SIMULTANEOUS draws in Cebu and Manila were conducted April 14 for the 1st monthly draw of Matwood's Iwas Anay Libreng Bahay Raffle promo. Shown is Lara Syyap, product manager of Matimco Inc. with a DTI representative verifying the Luzon winner of the furniture package.

My Home invites you to 'open up'

IN HONOR of the conclusion of yet another summer season, Earth+Style My Home magazine's second installment for the year features "light and airy spaces, breezy places".

Featured homes include style matriarch Lulu Tan-Gan's "white and airy haven", sophisticated city abodes designed by Leo Espinosa and Simply Asian's Cezette Mendoza and Avic Co, as well as a breathtaking beach house in Anilao. In the garden section, Antonio's (a lush garden restaurant in Tagaytay) is showcased. Appropriately, with vacation on everyone's minds, beach-inspired home decors dominate the accessories section. Under the spotlight section are creative ways to brighten up the two most personal spaces in the home, the bedroom and bath.

Published by Earth+Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI), Earth+Style My Home continues to make beautiful Filipinolifestyles happen. Earth+Style My Home is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.

Make-A-Wish child Grace gets Jollibee treat from Aga

'IDOL' sees double: Aga poses with Make-A-Wish beneficiary Grace Frias (right) and her twin sister Shane during a visit to the set of 'Ok Fine, Whatever!'

MINUTES before the start of the taping of "Ok Fine, Whatever!", a 10-year-old kid arrived with her parents and three other siblings, hoping to meet her favorite star, Aga Muhlach, who was about to appear anytime soon. As soon as the moment came when Aga emerged into the set, Grace Frias, a recent recipient of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, beamed her most wondrous smile.

Grace was diagnosed with a kidney ailment in December 2002. She was brought to the Philippine Children's Medical Center where Make-A-Wish Foundation heard of her condition. Like what it did to many other critically ill children, Make-A-Wish Foundation granted Grace's fervent wish to see her idol up close and personal by bringing her and her family to the set of Aga's sitcom in ABS-CBN. Apart from the celebrity treat, the Foundation also delivered a bed to Grace's house to bring more comfort to her.

Aga surprised Grace with the langhap-sarap Chickenjoy, Jolly Kiddie toys and other gift items from Jollibee. Other artists crowded around her as she opened the package Aga gave her. But it was also a surprise to everyone, including Aga, to find out that the 10-year-old waiting for him had an identical twin.

Grace and her twin sister Shane stayed on during the taping and excitedly posed with Aga during the break. "*Ang saya-saya ko. Gustung-gusto ko talaga si* Tito Aga. *Ang bait pa niya. Tapos, binigyan pa niya ako ng mga* gifts *galing sa* Jollibee. *Salamat talaga sa* Jollibee. *Siyempre, nagpapasalamat kami sa* Make-A-Wish Foundation *kasi dahil sa kanila nakita ko ang* idol *ko*," Grace enthusiastically said.

Along with celebrity endorser Aga Muhlach, Jollibee Foods Corp. marketing manager Pinky Laurena hopes that with this simple act, they were able to bring joy to Grace. "What we did was too little compared to what Grace really needs. But, hopefully, with the deed that we have done, we were able to give her a memory she can cherish and reminisce," Laurena said.

AGA gets a kiss from fan Grace. Looking on are (from left) Grace's mother Leticia (partly hidden), sister Hope/Angel, brother Eric, father Enrique, twin sister Shane, Make-A-Wish Foundation volunteers Nella Corpuz and Paulo Mangahas, and Aga's co-star Bayani Agbayani.

Pana's 1st seminar for 2003 June 4-6

THE EDUCATION and research committee of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), led by committee director Sandra C. Puno of Nestle Philippines Inc. and chair Elizabeth B. Flores of Ott Louie Philippines, will be conducting its first seminar for the year, "The Changing Media Landscape" from June 4 to 6 at the Westin Philippine Plaza every afternoon from 1 to 6 p.m.

The seminar offers vital insights into the diverse and complex sphere of media. Industry experts such as Hans Lopez Vito of McCann-Erickson, Ed Sunico of Unilever Philippines, Nic Gabunada of ABS-CBN Broadcasting, March Ventosa of Hemisphere Leo Burnett, Angelica Suiza of Adidas Philippines, Mike Enriquez of GMA-7, Lisa Gokongwei of Summit Publishing, Venus Navalta of Universal McCann, August Benitez of Optimedia, Alfonso Tagaysay of Globe Telecom and Reginald Velasco of Nestle Philippines will share their expertise on stirring topics essential in developing business building strategies.

Expected to attend are Pana members, media, academe and other members of the Advertising Board of the Philippines. For further inquiries, call Lino Hernandez or Nards Gelverio of Pana at 890-2989 to 91 or 899-5671 or 91.

Open MATB June 1

THE FIRST open Management Aptitude Test Battery (MATB) this year will be conducted on June 1 in Quezon City, Cebu City and Davao City. The open MATB, the first stage in the series of the Career Executive Service (CES) eligibility examination, happens only twice a year-in June and in December. The examination is open to appointees or OICs of Career Executive Service (CES) positions with at least six months residency in their CES position, and appointees or OICs of division chief level positions under permanent status with at least three years experience as division chief.

Go overboard with Xtreme Challenge

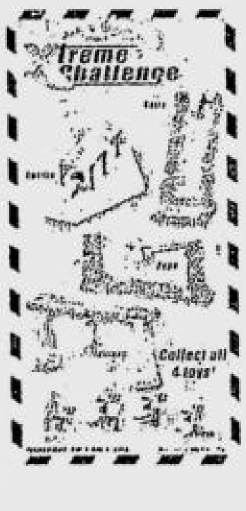
NO FEAR! No doubt! No limit! Jollibee, Hetty, Twirlie and Popo are here to thrill your kids in the newest, action-packed Jolly Kiddie Meal, the Xtreme Challenge.

Here is a sure way to let your children pack more excitement and fun this summer. Your kids will see their favorite Jollibee characters test their endurance and challenge themselves with the new Jolly Kiddie Meal toys.

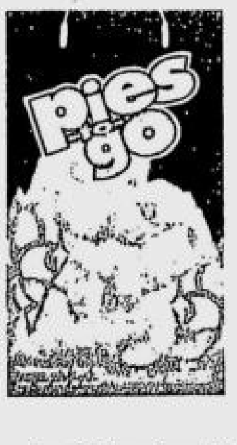
Jollibee is getting physical as he climbs the suspension bars. Your kids only need to pull Jollibee from the starting point, release him, and presto, they can watch him challenge the distance as he grabs hold of the bars. Your kids would enjoy Jollibee's acrobatics until the flag signals his success on the suspension bars.

Hetty, on the other hand, is doing a daring act as she descends the vertical drop while Twirlie races for victory in the wire crawl. Popo also faces the Xtreme Challenge hanging on the rope as he bridges the heights.

Collect all four of these Xtreme Challenges and bring home the adventure to your kids. Let them enjoy these high-quality toys that they can find with their favorite *langhap-sarap* Jolly Kiddie Meals.



Sweet treat for your loved ones



"*PASALUBUNGAN ng tamis and iyong mga mahal sa buhay...*" Surely, there is no better way to be endeared to your loved ones than to bring them the perfect pasalubong-Jollibee's Pies-To-Go!

You'll find your summer all sugar and "pies" now that your favorite Jollibee desserts also come in threes and sixes. It's not only you who can enjoy this luscious fruity goodness, since you can bring this treat home. You and your loved ones can take pleasure in the package of three with a preference of an all Peach Mango Pie or an all Buko Pina Pie pack. Moreover, the package of six offers you a superb choice of a hearty all Peach Mango Pie pack, or a filling all Buko Pina Pie bunch, or an assortment of three pieces of each product.

"This is just one of our sweet ways of showing how much we care for our customers and their loved ones. We want to give them a lot of choices. Though we still offer these pies in singles, we also provide them in packs our patrons can take home and share with their families and friends," stated Lot Legaspi, Jollibee product manager.

Sweeten up your summer with Pies-To-Go and you will find yourself catching the "Feeling Jollibee...at 25, *walang kasing tamis*."

BITS Clips

CMMA search

THE SEARCH is on for the best in Philippine media with the opening of the award season of the Catholic Mass Media Awards. Now on its 25th year, CMMA is the only award-giving body that recognizes exemplary media products based on Christian values. Entries and nominations may be submitted to the CMMA secretariat, 5th floor, Dominga Building, 2113 Chino Roces Avenue corner Dela Rosa Street, Makati City. Deadline for submission of entries is on May 30. For more information, call 812-1833, 892-4779, or telefax 867-4026, or e-mail cmma@iconn.com.ph.

HCS '76 grand reunion

ALL Hinundayan Central School Batch '76 members are invited to their grand reunion on May 31 and June 1 at the Hinundayan Central School, Hinundayan, Southern Leyte. For inquiries, call Carla Cantones at 0916-3492496 or Alilee Balundo at 0919-3830301.

Outstanding Isabelino

INQUIRER correspondent in Isabela Villamor Visaya Jr. was awarded as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Isabelinos (TMOI) on May 10. Visaya, also editor of The Valley Times newsweekly, was cited in the media category. He was nominated by the Cabatuan local government. Other awardees were Dr. Virgilio Anolin (agriculture), Dr. Lolita Apostol (education), Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano (ecology), Antonio Jose Sin Damatan (entrepreneurship), Supt. Antonio Mendoza Jr. (law enforcement), Dr. Roman Dannug (professional), Herman Ongkiko (public service), Amancia Magusib (science and technology) and Dr. Jane Carlaga (culture and arts). Special awards were given to retired Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado (military service), Ambassador Ernesto Garrido (diplomatic service) and Allan J.R. Balisi (visual arts).

KITARO best Japanese resto

KITARO was recently conferred by the Asia-Pacific Awards Council (Apac) in coordination with the National Consumer Affairs Foundation (NCAF) the 2003 Asia Pacific Excellence Award as an outstanding Japanese restaurant. Kitaro, with 16 branches in Metro Manila and Pampanga, has become the wise alternative of health-conscious consumers. Known for its authentic Japanese cuisine such as sushi, sashimi, ramen, maki and tempura, it will soon open another outlet at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala, Makati. For free delivery of Kitaro's famous party trays and other food items, call 912-16-12.

Much ado about Advertising Congress promo

BAGUIO CITY—The first promotional campaign for this year's National Advertising Congress in Baguio has been barred by a private advertising firm contracted by the city government in February, sources in the local tourism industry said on Tuesday.

A local official told the ad congress' committee on ways and means last week that an advertising firm called Kuryente Graphics Advertising Inc. (KGAI), which was contracted to promote the recent Baguio Flower Festival, has full control over all promotional materials that would be displayed in the city.

The KGAI contract, which has been extended to December, mandates that all materials, including the congress' initial promotional blitz and streamers should use KGAI's commercial services.

But city engineer Leo Bernardez said the ad congress also wanted exclusive or dominant use of downtown Baguio for their promotional materials. This has complicated the city's contract commitments, he said.

Bernardez approves all streamers, billboards and other promotional materials that are displayed in the downtown area.

Baguio won the rights to host the National Advertising Congress late last year, after committing the newly built College Assurance Plan (CAP)-John Hay Trade and Convention Center as the city's premier convention site.

"Now that we have offended the ad congress, they are asking the city to come up with a clearer commitment or else they will hold the congress in Cebu," a Baguio Tourism Council member said.

KGAI's contract covers the city's summer vacation promos, said an aide of Mayor Bernardo Vergara.

"I don't think the ad congress should pressure the city into (ignoring its previous contractual obligations) this month for them. The city has its own advertising plan," the aide said.

The memorandum of agreement covering the ad congress sets October for a sustained promotional campaign. However, the city mayor's office extended KGAI's contract after the firm obtained merchandising and promotional rights for the flower festival in February and March, and for the city's summer vacation activities in April and May, Bernardez said.

But he said the extended advertising agreement with KGAI was not endorsed by the city council.

The KGAI contract had been the center of debate last February when the Makati-based firm's affiliates tried to take over the flower festival's market encounter trade fair.

Vergara eventually limited KGAI's contract scope to advertising materials, although his office granted the firm promotional control over the city's Holy Week activities.

In exchange, KGAI had committed to pay the city P2 million, as well as P3 million worth of "non-financial donations."

Among these donations are custom-made advertising frames that now line the city's public areas.

Leticia Clemente, city budget officer and Flower Festival chair, said the KGAI contract created legal issues because perennial festival donors like Caltex Philippines and Smart Telecommunications Co. were barred by the firm from sponsoring this year's event.

KGAI apparently closed several deals with these firms' rivals, which demanded exclusive promotional control over Baguio.

The conflict was settled amicably, "and KGAI was able to release its commitments to the city," Clemente said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

COOL Baguio finds itself in a hot controversy over promotions campaign.

'TV, radio ads are not always the best options'

From page B2-8

to more developed countries such as the United States, Japan and even Korea which have become more sophisticated when it comes to ad requirements.

In the US, Alfonso says that companies have started to paste product ads on the front page of major newspapers and other companies print ads on coffee sleeves. Korea, on the other hand, makes a lot of use of technological developments to project holograms of different products.

Alfonso says all these efforts are geared toward increasing market share and awareness in new battlegrounds away from the traditional strongholds of–radio, television and print advertising.

One of the major areas of competition is the point-of-purchase displays, because studies in the US showed that as much as 60 percent of what people actually buy are not part of the shopping list or are impulse purchases.

Manufacturing firms have thus invested in the latest in shelf displays and colorful gondolas.

"Manufacturers know that these types of ads give them an edge at the final battleground where the consumers actually make their purchase," Alfonso says.

Alfonso, however, stresses that tri-media advertising would continue to take the lion's share of corporations' advertising budgets, but says that the share for non-traditional advertising is definitely on the rise.

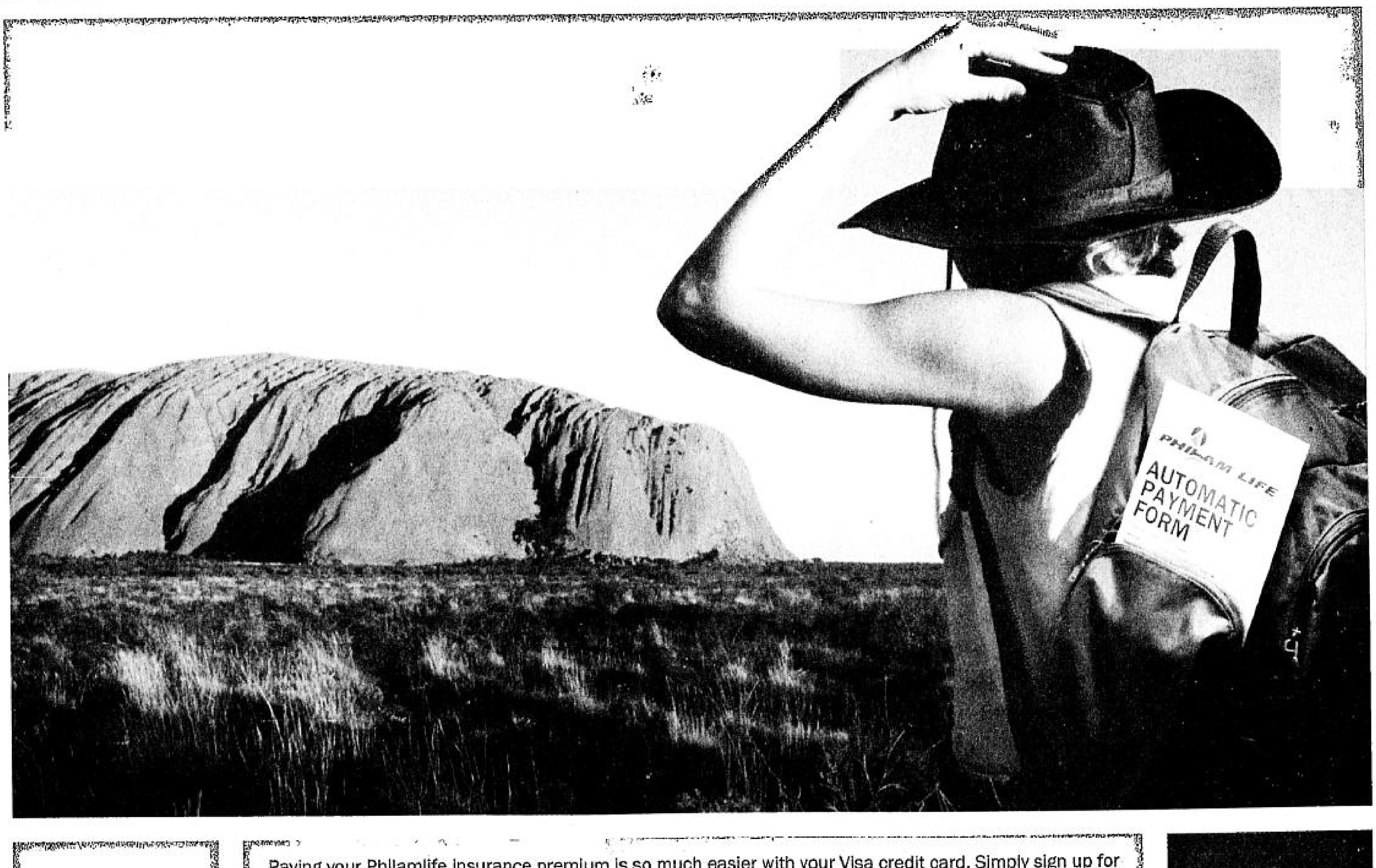
He adds that non-traditional advertising usually works best for companies if they are the first to use it on a grand scale in the market. The novelty factor eventually wears off, thus, companies are asking for the next new thing in the market.

Alfonso says RS Concepts regularly go to the US, Israel, Japan and Korea just to see the latest developments and they bring back to the Philippines what they think would work in the local market.

Companies have to pay a premium for these marketing aids but Alfonso says the benefits are worth the extra expense in the end.

Vaseline
GET A RIDE
ALFONSO says budgets for non-traditional advertising are on the rise.

Enjoy convenient insurance payment with Visa & Philamlife
and win a chance to experience Australia!



PHILAM LIFE

Paying your Philamlife insurance premium is so much easier with your Visa credit card. Simply sign up for Autocharge Arrangement and your premium will be automatically charged to your Visa. From now till 31 July 2003, sign up for Autocharge Arrangement and qualify to join the Visa-Philam Grand Outback Adventure Raffle! You can win great prizes like **Nokia 3650 cellphones, Sony VCD players, Canon Powershot digital cameras and a grand prize of a trip to Australia for two!** Terms and Conditions Apply.

For more details, see leaflets, posters or call Philamlife Salary Allotment Market Dept. at 526-9366.

VISA
All it takes.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

'TV, radio ads are not always best options'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN companies think about advertising their product, radio, television and print or tri-media advertising immediately come to mind.

But that was when most of the target market used to spend a lot of their time at home.

These days, people spend more of their time outside the house either stuck in traffic, slaving away in their offices or malling.

When they do stay home to watch television or listen to the radio, they just simply switch channels or stations during commercial breaks.

So what are companies left to do? Well, if the potential buyers or consumers are no longer at home, then companies have to go out and capture them where they are - on the road, on the buses or in restaurants drinking their coffee.

Or put their ads in publications like magazines, or outlets, that reach their specific markets.

Thus non-traditional advertising and magazines in the country.

Russ Alfonso, managing director of visual communications provider RS Concepts Inc., says the number of billboards along major thoroughfares, for instance, increased from almost zero to over 100 in just five years.

Billboards, unlike television, cannot be switched off and these are means of generating recall because commuters see them for at least a whole month and for more than 30 seconds because of the traffic.

Buses plying major routes also sport giant sticker ads of the latest detergent or cellular phone company on the outside and more ads are stuck on the seats. Some buses even have lighted signs.

The coaches of the LRT and MRT also have advertisements inside to catch the attention of the thousands of commuters, mostly from the C, D and E markets.

Even the supermarket stalls look different these days as manufacturing companies fight for the consumers' attention.

There are pop-up ads with moving parts, and even mini-television sets showcasing the benefits of a particular product.

"This is all because of a lifestyle change. Filipinos now spend more of their time away from home. They spend at least two hours in traffic and another three hours to go to the mall or do their grocery shopping. That is why we have a growth in non-traditional ads," Alfonso says.

Alfonso, however, says that despite the proliferation of these ads, the Philippines has barely scratched the surface compared

TV/ B2-7

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

" I'm stuck in the bathroom without any toilet paper."

With life-like theater experience from the new Philips Home Entertainment System, you'll make up any excuse to stay home.

Start by rattling your living room with pure audio mayhem--thanks to Philips' Digital Home Entertainment System. Dynamic sound from Multichannel Wide Spectrum Surround with Super Audio CD and Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS. Plus super DVD video quality with FAROUDJA Progressive Scan. While the new Philips Pixel Plus TV with its over 2 million pixels offers you picture quality of the highest resolution, life-like pictures. With the new Philips Home Entertainment System and Pixel Plus TV, your movies and music will never be the same again.

Staying home has never been better.

www.philips.com

"I'm a couch potato that has grown roots!"

Presenting the first batch of daily winners of Philips "Best Excuse" Contest who each receive a Philips sporty bag and get a chance to win a Philips 21PT4320 Real Flat TV:

"My goldfish got drowned."
Renato S. Acuña, May 16, 2003

"My dog won't let me go! With the latest technology and advanced entertainment system, your dog won't cry no more. Perhaps you too.
Patrick Paz, May 17, 2003

"Am still mourning the death of my pet goldfish."
Rey Valencia, May 18, 2003

"I'm a couch potato that has grown roots."
Gilbert Chan, May 19, 2003

"Because I'm going to mourn for the dead... my dead toenails!"
Georlyn S. Atun, May 20, 2003

"I'm fishing a critique on 'drowning made easy.'"
Alvin P. Almazar, May 21, 2003

"Grandpa will reenact jam session with Grandma."
Tony Casanas, May 22, 2003

"I'm impersonating a house fixture."
Alvin P. Almazar, May 23, 2003

"Granny said I should stay or she'll pinch my (censored)."
Julieta Estrellado, May 24, 2003

"My mom just hired me as her home security personnel."
Darcy Bertulfo E. de Lima, May 24, 2003

"My ingrown toenails developed a branch!"
Domingo C. Briones, May 25, 2003

Aside from the Philips Real Flat TV, all daily winners also get a chance to win a Philips MC-55 Micro Hi-Fi audio system, a Philips DVD727 DVD player, a Philips AZ1110 radio cassette recorder with CD player and a Philips AX5202 Portable CD Player.

You too can get a chance to win these amazing Philips products simply by texting in your wackiest, zaniest and most hilarious excuse to stay home to 0916-2701088 for Globe users and 0920-8240470 for Smart users along with your name, age, address, and the Philips tagline "Staying home has never been better with Philips Home Entertainment System."

Contest runs until June 15, 2003 and is open to Metro Manila residents only.

ADVT.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

ABS-CBN earned P1 billion in May alone, says executive

By Leah Salterio

ABS-CBN set a record by earning last week P1 billion gross in airtime revenues for May alone, according to network officials.

The windfall, which came even when the month is not yet over, is a first for ABS-CBN and brings the network's total gross so far this year to P4.1 billion, according to senior vice president for integrated sales and marketing Nicanor C. Gabunada.

"It's a record year-to-date figure that overtook our 2002 gross sales by 23 percent," Gabunada told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Since ABS-CBN started operating again in 1986, this is the only time we reached P1 billion in sales in one month. We were not expecting to hit a billion in May, but at the rate we're going, we're most likely to hit our net income target this year."

ABS-CBN's strongest rival, GMA 7, registered P1.2 billion in gross revenue for the first quarter of 2003, a 65 percent increase from its earnings in the previous year. For the same period, ABS-CBN made P2.2 billion, according to Gabunada.

The good news was announced

ABS-CBN/C3

tonight, wear a little something to tickle his fancy

COLORS AND HIGHLIGHTS BY

GOING STRAIGHT SALON

Hair Straightening • Color • Treatment • Care

GRAND CENTRAL / 363-6689 • ROBINSON'S PLACE BACOLOD CITY (034) 441-1064 • ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA / 536-8031 • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA / 632-7322 • MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE 844-2129 • 811-1439 • SM CENTERPOINT / 716-1549 • SM CITY BACOOR / (046) 970-4852 • SM CITY MANILA / 400-5623 • SM NORTH EDSA / 920-3367 • SM FAIRVIEW / 935-7433 • SM MEGAMALL / 633-7048 • SM BICUTAN / 777-9159 • SM PAMPANGA / (045) 961-2125 • SM SOUTHMALL / 805-9611 • SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT / 826-8841 • SM DAVAO / (082) 297-1173 • SM ILOILO / (033) 320-7992 • STA. LUCIA / 681-7437 • CIRCLE C CENTER, CONGRESSIONAL AVE., QC / 928-1473 • PRINCE PLAZA II BLDG., GREENBELT / 893-1716 • FESTIVAL MALL ALABANG / 775-0116

NOW OPEN AT GLORIETTA 2, CLUB FUN, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI / 817-1177

JACKSON

Michael Jackson 'is broke'

"KING of Pop" Michael Jackson is nearly broke, two of his former financial advisers claim in a lawsuit set for trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court on June 18.

The suit, filed by Union Finance and Investment Corp. of South Korea, says Jackson's extravagant spending has created "a ticking time bomb waiting to explode at any moment."

It claims Jackson owes $12 million in fees and expenses, plus interest.

Jackson's lawyer Brian Oxman said he doesn't believe his 44-year-old client–a lavish spender who racked up a $100,000 hotel bill on a brief trip to New York last year, according to Forbes magazine–is near bankruptcy.

"I see no signs of this impending disaster," Oxman said.

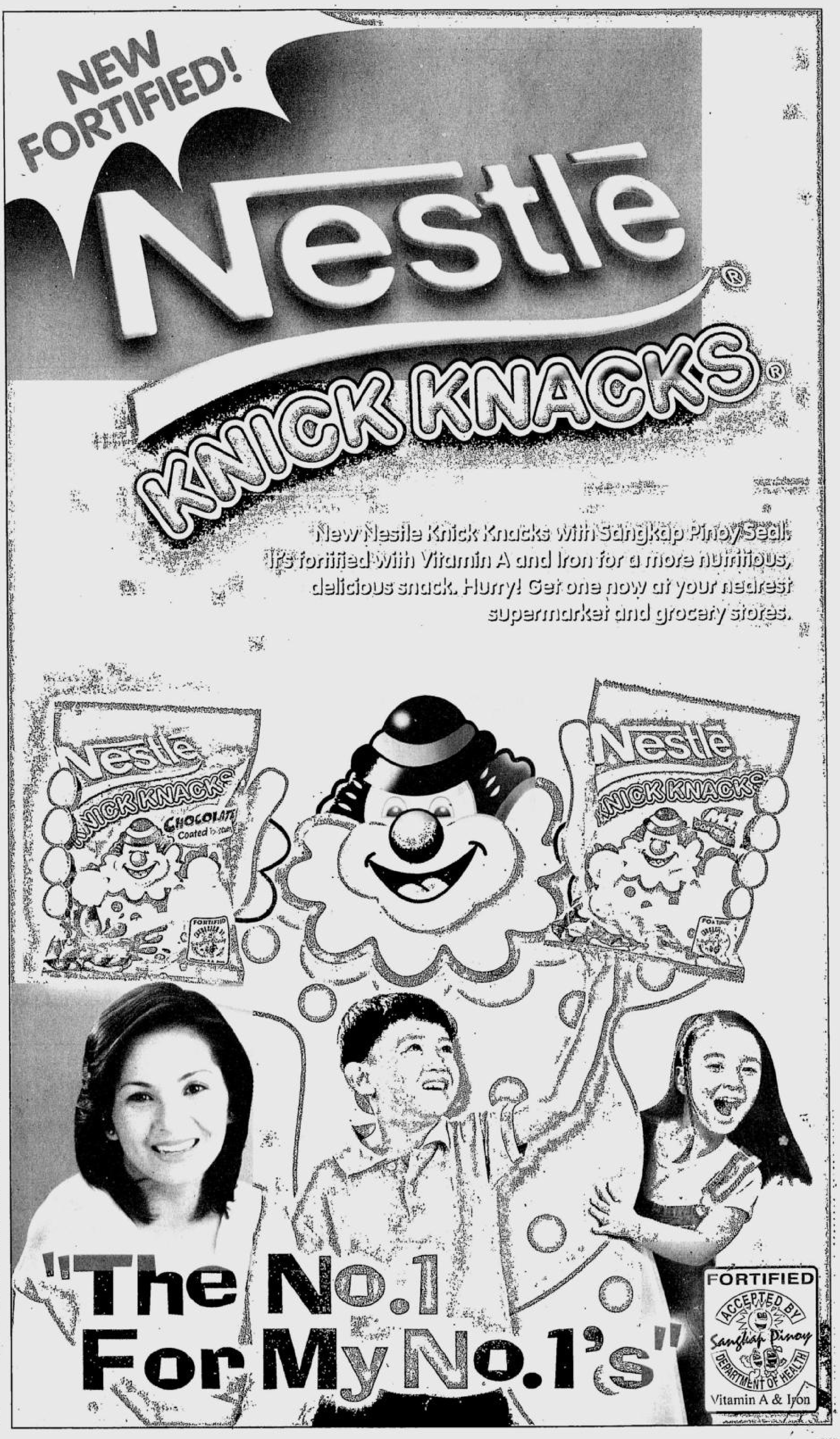
Last year, Forbes, which tracks the balance sheets of the rich and famous, estimated that Jackson had $200 million dollars in debts but a net worth of 350 million. *AFP*

STAGING A ROBBERY **High school students in San Diego, California are staging a musical called "Sticky Fingers: A Tale of Saks, Lies and Videotape," satirizing the trial of Oscar-nominated actress Winona Ryder (left), who was convicted last year of stealing $6,000 worth of items from Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills.** AP

BONNEVIE

Ms D, recruiter

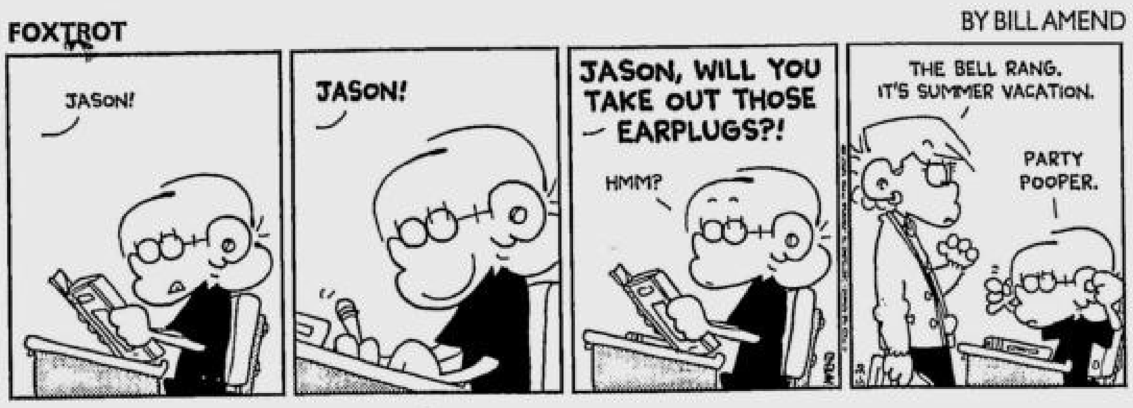
/C3



New Nestle Knick Knacks with Sangkap Pinoy Seal. It's fortified with Vitamin A and Iron for a more nutritious, delicious snack. Hurry! Get one now at your nearest supermarket and grocery stores.

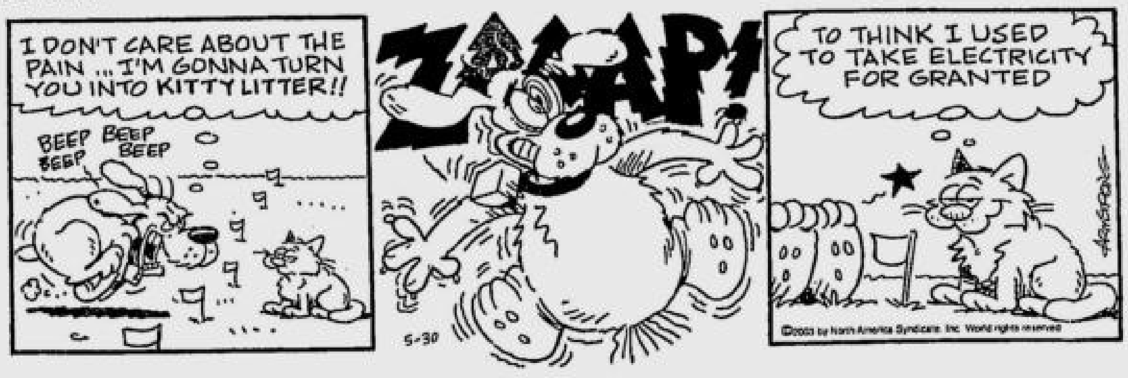
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON!
JASON!
JASON, WILL YOU TAKE OUT THOSE EARPLUGS?!
HMM?
THE BELL RANG. IT'S SUMMER VACATION.
PARTY POOPER.

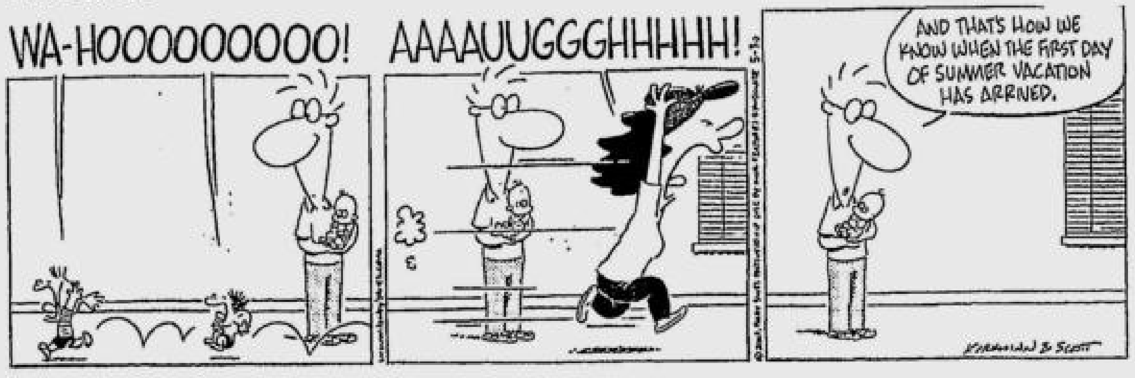
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PAIN ... I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO KITTY LITTER!!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
ZAAAP!
5-30
TO THINK I USED TO TAKE ELECTRICITY FOR GRANTED
©2003 by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved

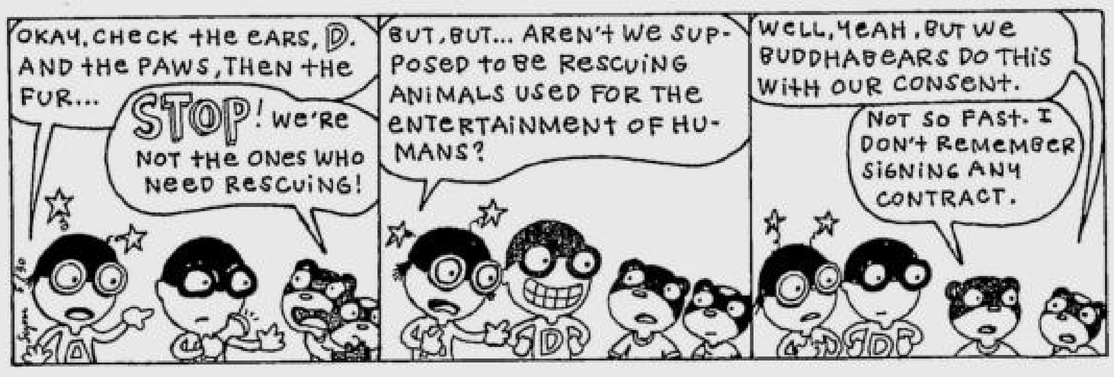
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WA-HOOOOOOOOO!
AAAAUUGGGHHHHH!
AND THAT'S HOW WE KNOW WHEN THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION HAS ARRIVED.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, CHECK THE EARS, D. AND THE PAWS, THEN THE FUR...
STOP! WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO NEED RESCUING!
BUT, BUT... AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE RESCUING ANIMALS USED FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF HUMANS?
WELL, YEAH, BUT WE BUDDHABEARS DO THIS WITH OUR CONSENT.
NOT SO FAST. I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING ANY CONTRACT.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are fast-thinking and fast-moving. Freedom and independence are important to you. You need variety, and you work well on changing projects. You avoid routine and boredom. In fact, you are capable of balancing two lives in one. Many of you have unusual talents and skills. Work hard this year because benefits will come very soon. Birthdate of: Wynonna Judd, singer; Gale Sayers, football player; Keir Dullea, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about your communication style. How do others respond to you? Are you friendly? (It's definitely easier to go through life being friendly.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's New Moon offers you the perfect opportunity to think about your money and what you do with it. Does what you own help you or become a burden? Think about it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Solar Eclipse takes place in your sign. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to think about new resolutions and starting new helpful habits. How can you improve your life?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A message from the universe today is a reminder that you need some peace and quiet. Quit running around trying to be everything to everyone. It's impossible.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Good friendships can actually improve your health and your general well-being. (Studies have proven this.) Value the friends you have, never take them for granted, and be a good friend in return.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Solar Eclipse takes place at the top of your chart. Ask yourself: Are you headed where you want to go?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your normal daily routine bores you now. You want to do anything different—you need a change of scenery. Why not be a tourist in your own town? Look around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Attend to red-tape details like taxes, debt, paying bills and the like. Return borrowed items; clean up old business related to shared property and joint holdings.

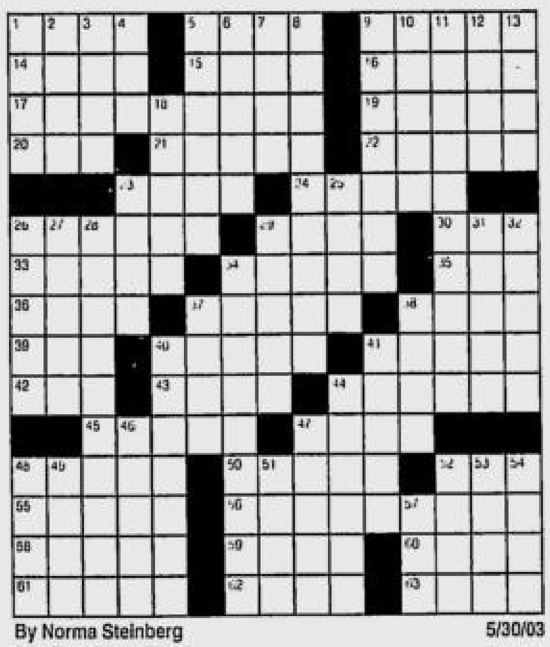
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's Solar Eclipse is opposite your sign. This offers you an opportunity to learn more about how you relate to partners and close friends. (Would you want you for a friend?)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is the perfect day to think about ways to improve your health. The best way to begin is to stop doing one thing that is harmful. Just one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Love affairs, romance and entertaining diversions look promising now! Expect good times ahead. (Treat yourself to some new duds.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are best served by focusing on home and family now. Turn your attention to your domestic, private life. Be caring and giving, because all your actions will come back to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

5/30/03

ACROSS

1 Surrounded by
5 Bank conveniences
9 Non-believer
14 Slight
15 Liner, e.g.
16 Kukla's pal
17 Hooch
19 Playground structure
20 Possess
21 Throng
22 Schlepped
23 Jokester
24 Preliminary version
26 Biblical dancer
29 Without a date
30 Inventor Whitney
33 Ticket figure
34 Combine
35 Director Howard
36 Latvian capital
37 Soft drinks
38 Heroic tale
39 __ Wednesday
40 Endangered ape, briefly
41 Place wagers
42 To date
43 Kudrow or Alther
44 Kudos
45 Denoted
47 Eight to Yves
48 De-rinds
50 French school
52 Involuntary spasm
55 Diarist Nin
56 Bulletin
58 "The Prince of Tides" co-star
59 Nobel-winner Wiesel
60 Rod between wheels
61 Curvy letters
62 AAA advice
63 Perspective

DOWN

1 Shortened bullets?
2 Tabby talk
3 Age after Bronze
4 Family room
5 On land
6 __ time is a charm
7 Never you __
8 Radar setup
9 Mail campaign expense
10 Completely
11 Chic set
12 Part of ADC
13 Prerequisite
18 Disgrace
23 Caesar's TV sidekick
25 Cleaning cloths
26 Aerosol
27 Come up
28 Bites to eat
29 Southern town in '60s headlines
31 Company images
32 Silly
34 Skin-care product
37 Whiskers site
38 Perform ushering
40 Academic groups
41 Concise
44 Throbs
46 Cream of the crop
47 Comic Mandel
48 Window element
49 Adam's grandson
51 Early Brit
52 Scorsese film, "__ Driver"
53 Sea-bound land
54 Munch on
57 Wash rm.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	E	T	■	U	S	S	R	■	R	A	D	A	R
U	T	A	H	■	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	I	Z	E
B	O	R	R	O	W	M	O	N	E	Y	F	R	O	M
S	O	N	O	R	A	■	P	O	E	■	■	T	V	S
■	■	■	B	R	R	R	■	U	F	O	S	■	■	■
P	E	S	S	I	M	I	S	T	S	C	A	U	S	E
L	A	P	■	N	E	M	O	■	■	A	N	N	U	L
E	R	I	N	■	D	E	N	S	E	■	D	I	M	E
A	T	T	A	R	■	■	D	A	N	A	■	T	A	C
T	H	E	Y	N	E	V	E	R	E	X	P	E	C	T
■	■	■	S	A	D	A	■	I	R	M	A	■	■	■
A	S	S	■	■	E	L	S	■	V	A	P	O	R	S
R	E	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	A	N	Y	W	A	Y
P	R	A	G	M	A	T	I	S	T	■	R	E	I	N
S	A	M	O	A	■	S	P	E	E	■	I	D	L	E

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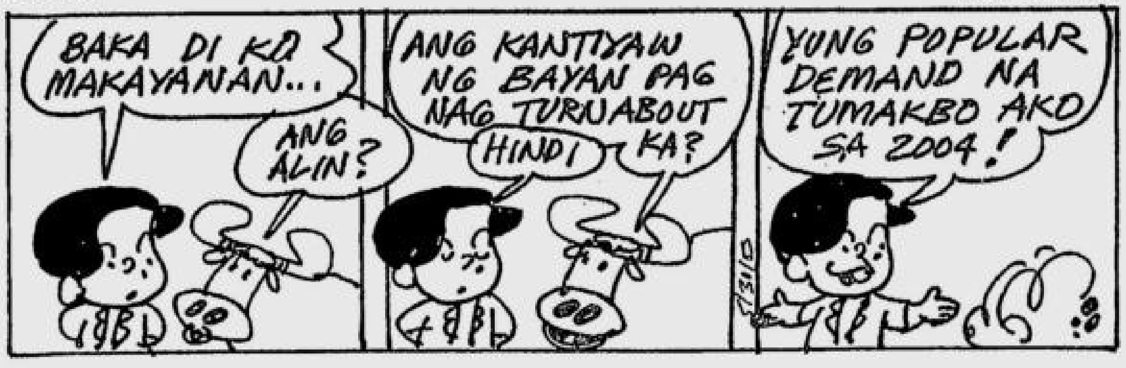
5/30/03

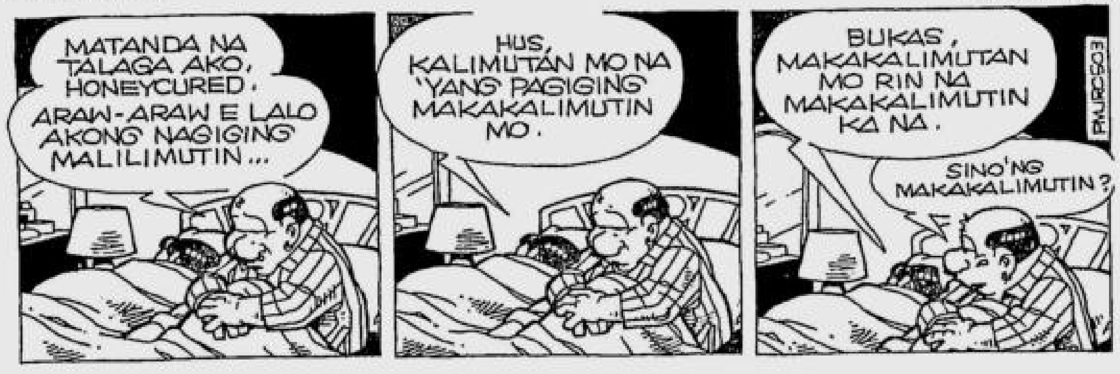
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKA DI KO MAKAYANAN...
ANG ALIN?
ANG KANTIYAW NG BAYAN PAG NAG TURNABOUT KA?
HINDI
YUNG POPULAR DEMAND NA TUMAKBO AKO SA 2004!

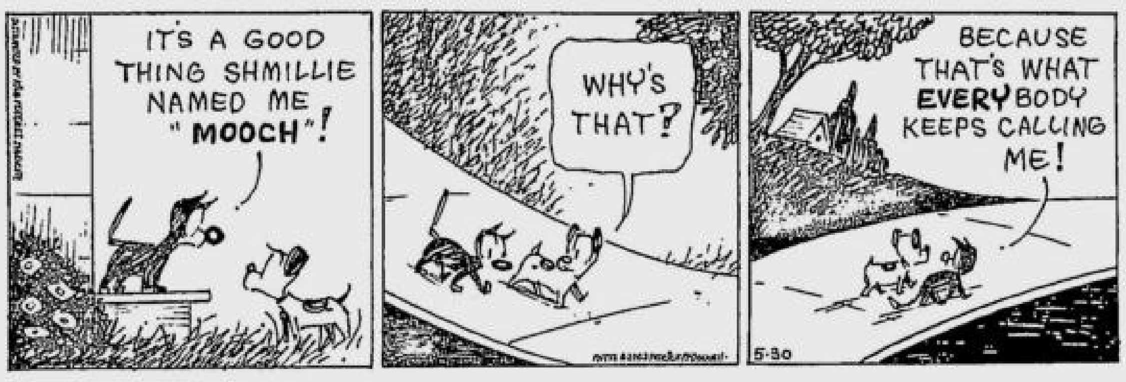
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATANDA NA TALAGA AKO, HONEYCURED. ARAW-ARAW E LALO AKONG NAGIGING MALILIMUTIN...
HUS, KALIMUTAN MO NA 'YANG PAGIGING MAKAKALIMUTIN MO.
BUKAS, MAKAKALIMUTAN MO RIN NA MAKAKALIMUTIN KA NA.
SINO'NG MAKAKALIMUTIN?
PMJR0503

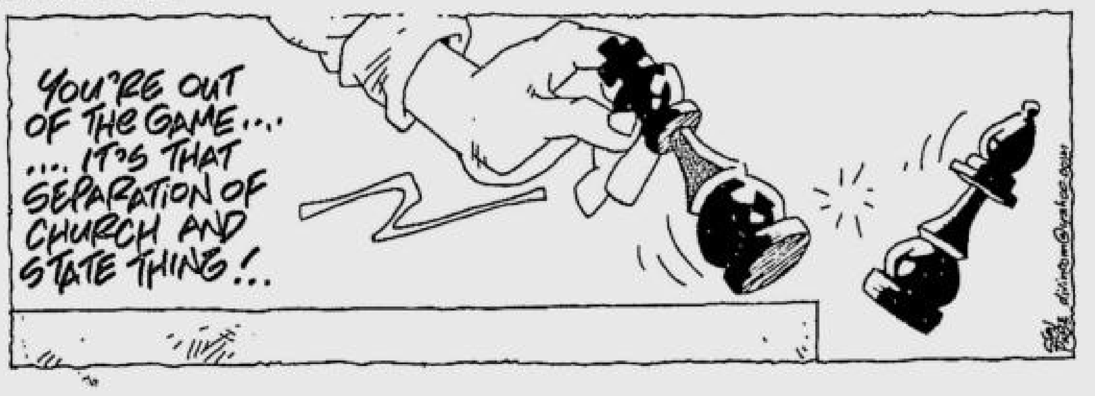
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S A GOOD THING SHMILLIE NAMED ME "MOOCH"!
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY KEEPS CALLING ME!
5-30

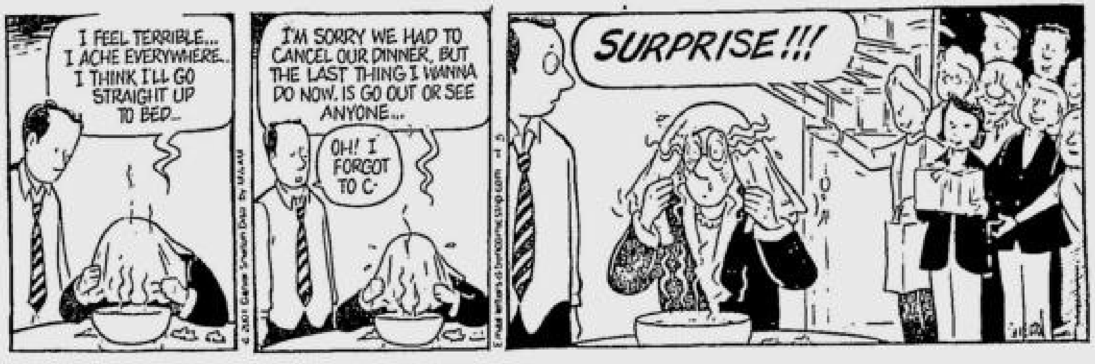
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU'RE OUT OF THE GAME... ...IT'S THAT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE THING!..

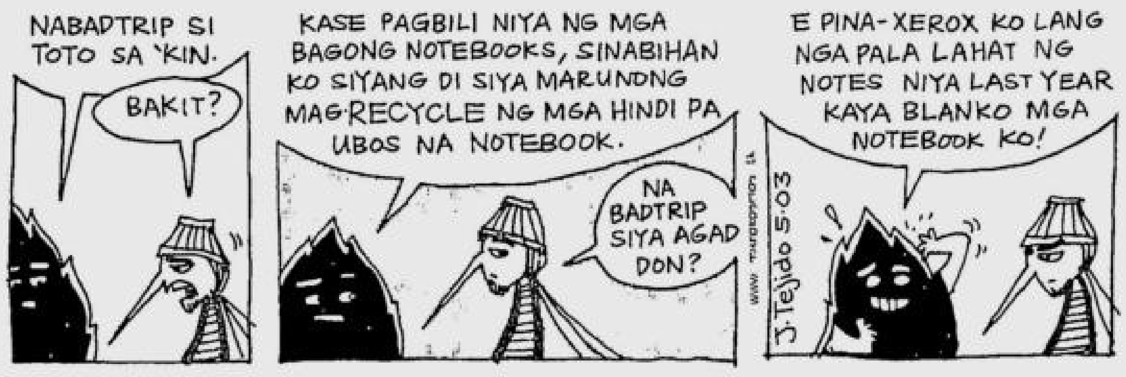
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I FEEL TERRIBLE... I ACHE EVERYWHERE... I THINK I'LL GO STRAIGHT UP TO BED...
I'M SORRY WE HAD TO CANCEL OUR DINNER, BUT THE LAST THING I WANNA DO NOW IS GO OUT OR SEE ANYONE...
OH! I FORGOT TO C-
SURPRISE!!!

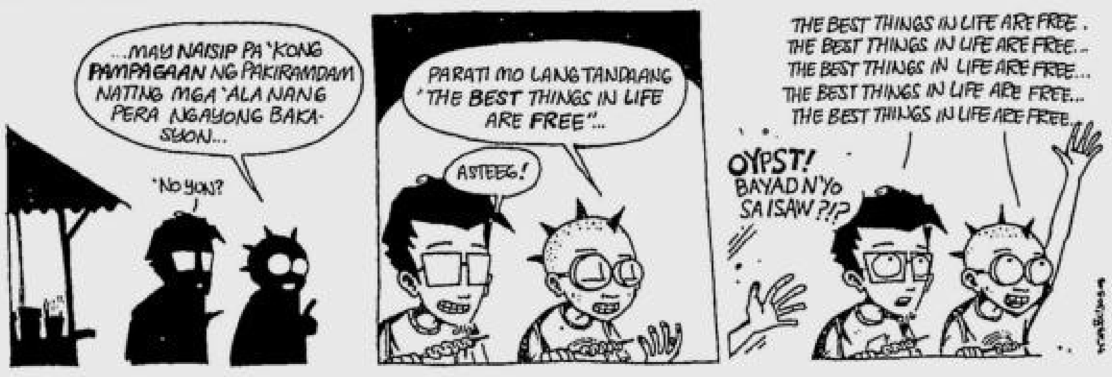
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NABADTRIP SI TOTO SA 'KIN.
BAKIT?
KASE PAGBILI NIYA NG MGA BAGONG NOTEBOOKS, SINABIHAN KO SIYANG DI SIYA MARUNONG MAG-RECYCLE NG MGA HINDI PA UBOS NA NOTEBOOK.
NA BADTRIP SIYA AGAD DON?
E PINA-XEROX KO LANG NGA PALA LAHAT NG NOTES NIYA LAST YEAR KAYA BLANKO MGA NOTEBOOK KO!
J. Tejido 5-03

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA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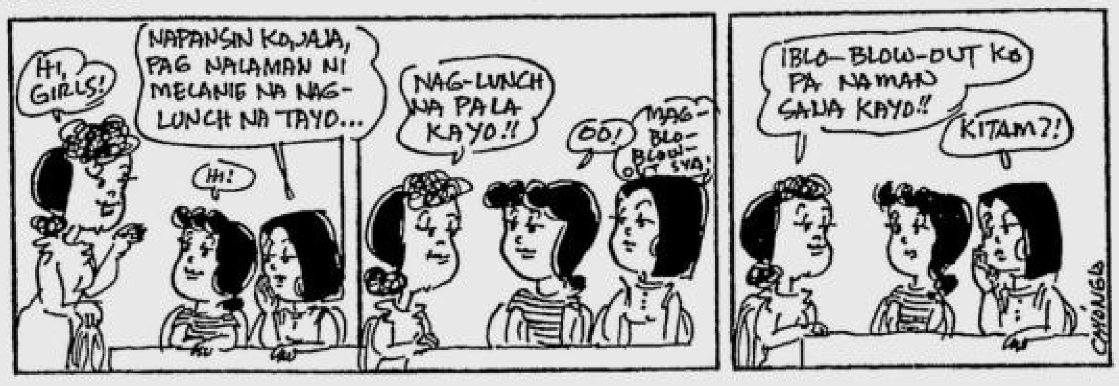
'NO YON?
PARATI MO LANG TANDAANG "THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE"...
ASTEEG!
THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE. THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE... THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE... THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE... THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE...
OYPST! BAYAD N'YO SA ISAW?!?

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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MAG-BLO-BLOW-OUT SYA!
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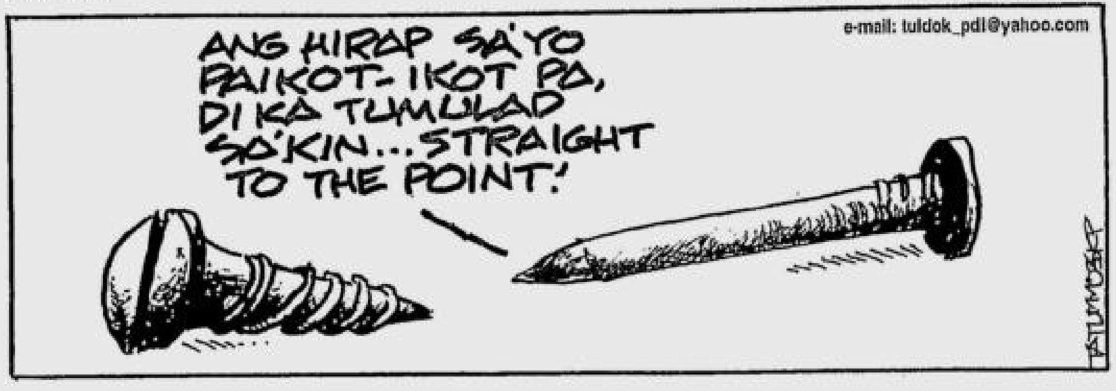
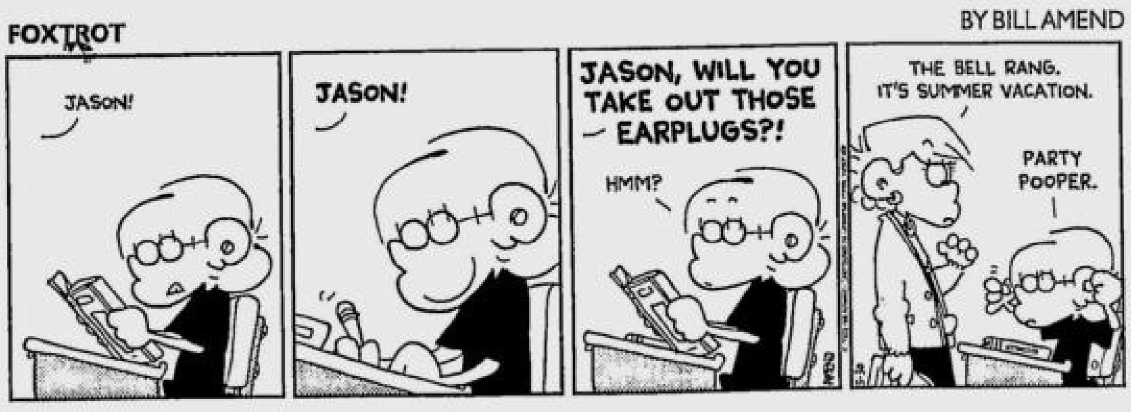
KITAM?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

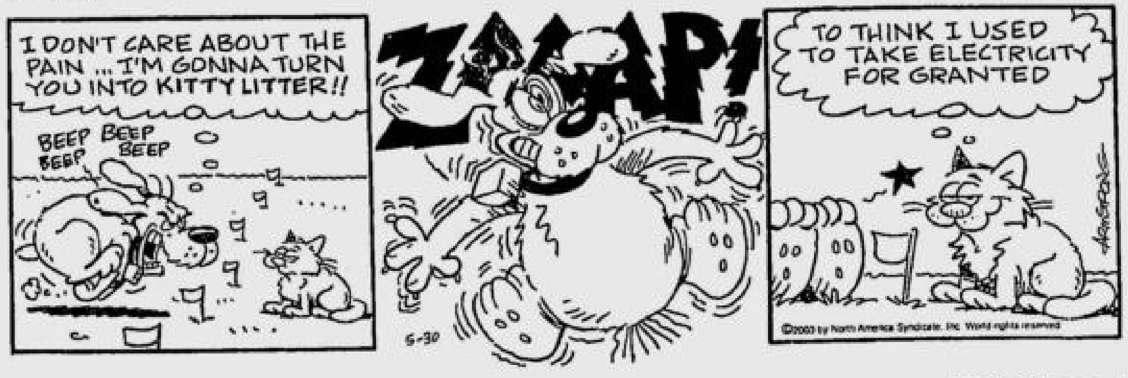
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


e-mail: tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com
ANG HIRAP SA'YO PAIKOT-IKOT PA, DI KA TUMULAD SA'KIN...STRAIGHT TO THE POINT!

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


JASON!
JASON!
JASON, WILL YOU TAKE OUT THOSE EARPLUGS?!
HMM?
THE BELL RANG. IT'S SUMMER VACATION.
PARTY POOPER.

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PAIN ... I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO KITTY LITTER!!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
ZAAAP!
5-30
TO THINK I USED TO TAKE ELECTRICITY FOR GRANTED
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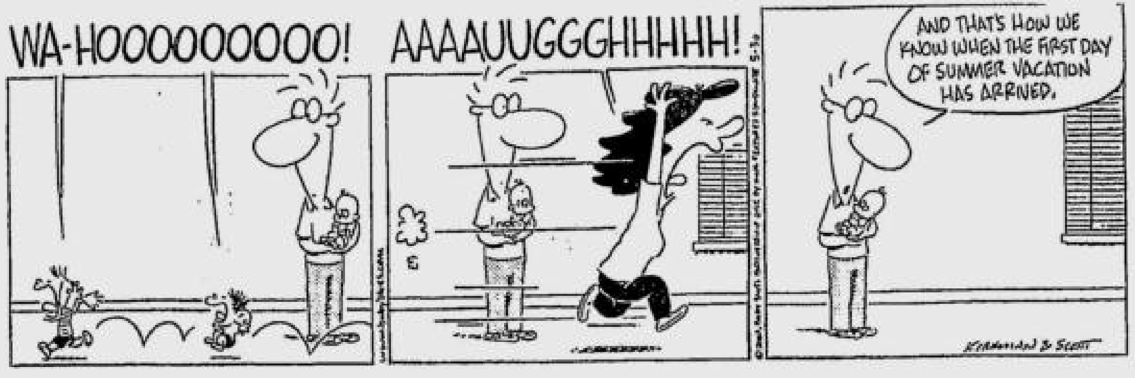
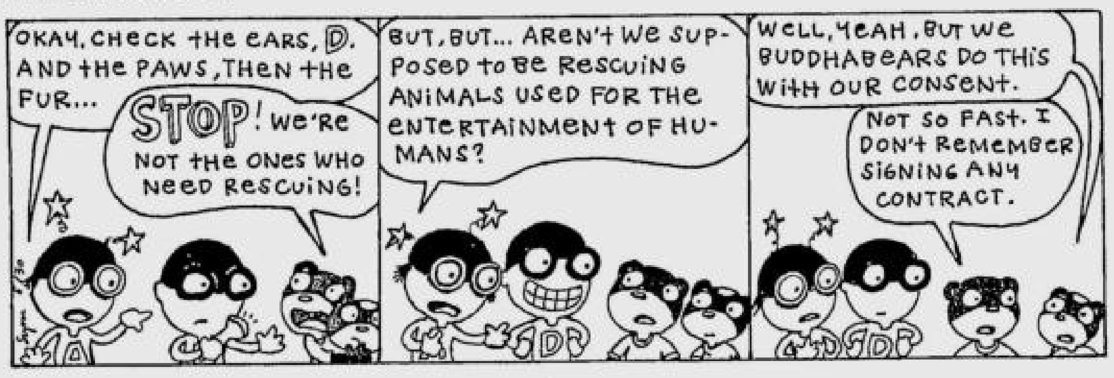
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WA-HOOOOOOOOO!
AAAAUUGGGHHHHH!
AND THAT'S HOW WE KNOW WHEN THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION HAS ARRIVED.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, CHECK THE EARS, D. AND THE PAWS, THEN THE FUR...
STOP! WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO NEED RESCUING!
BUT, BUT... AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE RESCUING ANIMALS USED FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF HUMANS?
WELL, YEAH, BUT WE BUDDHABEARS DO THIS WITH OUR CONSENT.
NOT SO FAST. I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING ANY CONTRACT.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are fast-thinking and fast-moving. Freedom and independence are important to you. You need variety, and you work well on changing projects. You avoid routine and boredom. In fact, you are capable of balancing two lives in one. Many of you have unusual talents and skills. Work hard this year because benefits will come very soon. Birthdate of: Wynonna Judd, singer; Gale Sayers, football player; Keir Dullea, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about your communication style. How do others respond to you? Are you friendly? (It's definitely easier to go through life being friendly.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today's New Moon offers you the perfect opportunity to think about your money and what you do with it. Does what you own help you or become a burden? Think about it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Solar Eclipse takes place in your sign. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to think about new resolutions and starting new helpful habits. How can you improve your life?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A message from the universe today is a reminder that you need some peace and quiet. Quit running around trying to be everything to everyone. It's impossible.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Good friendships can actually improve your health and your general well-being. (Studies have proven this.) Value the friends you have, never take them for granted, and be a good friend in return.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Solar Eclipse takes place at the top of your chart. Ask yourself: Are you headed where you want to go?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your normal daily routine bores you now. You want to do anything different—you need a change of scenery. Why not be a tourist in your own town? Look around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Attend to red-tape details like taxes, debt, paying bills and the like. Return borrowed items; clean up old business related to shared property and joint holdings.

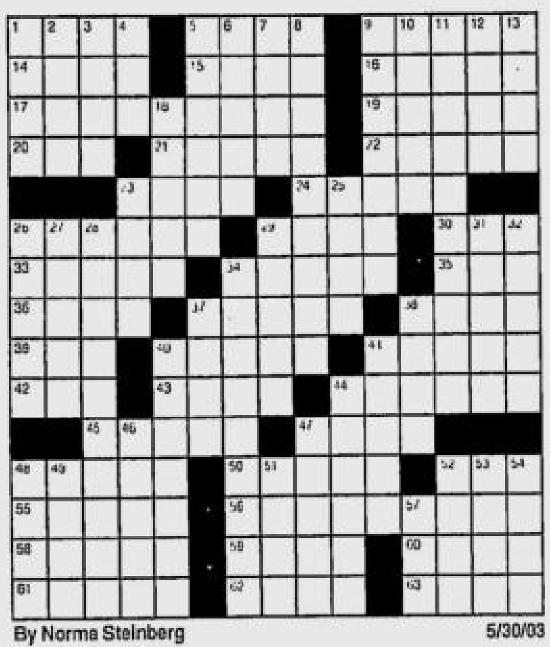
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's Solar Eclipse is opposite your sign. This offers you an opportunity to learn more about how you relate to partners and close friends. (Would you want you for a friend?)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is the perfect day to think about ways to improve your health. The best way to begin is to stop doing one thing that is harmful. Just one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Love affairs, romance and entertaining diversions look promising now! Expect good times ahead. (Treat yourself to some new duds.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are best served by focusing on home and family now. Turn your attention to your domestic, private life. Be caring and giving, because all your actions will come back to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

5/30/03

ACROSS
1 Surrounded by
5 Bank conveniences
9 Non-believer
14 Slight
15 Liner, e.g.
16 Kukla's pal
17 Hooch
19 Playground structure
20 Possess
21 Throng
22 Schlepped
23 Jokester
24 Preliminary version
26 Biblical dancer
29 Without a date
30 Inventor Whitney
33 Ticket figure
34 Combine
35 Director Howard
36 Latvian capital
37 Soft drinks
38 Heroic tale
39 __ Wednesday
40 Endangered ape, briefly
41 Place wagers
42 To date
43 Kudrow or Alther
44 Kudos
45 Denoted
47 Eight to Yves
48 De-rinds
50 French school
52 Involuntary spasm
55 Diarist Nin
56 Bulletin
58 "The Prince of Tides" co-star
59 Nobel-winner Wiesel
60 Rod between wheels
61 Curvy letters
62 AAA advice
63 Perspective

DOWN
1 Shortened bullets?
2 Tabby talk
3 Age after Bronze
4 Family room
5 On land
6 __ time is a charm
7 Never you __
8 Radar setup
9 Mail campaign expense
10 Completely
11 Chic set
12 Part of ADC
13 Prerequisite
18 Disgrace
23 Caesar's TV sidekick
25 Cleaning cloths
26 Aerosol
27 Come up
28 Bites to eat
29 Southern town in '60s headlines
31 Company images
32 Silly
34 Skin-care product
37 Whiskers site
38 Perform ushering
40 Academic groups
41 Concise
44 Throbs
46 Cream of the crop
47 Comic Mandel
48 Window element
49 Adam's grandson
51 Early Brit
52 Scorsese film, "__ Driver"
53 Sea-bound land
54 Munch on
57 Wash rm.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	E	T		U	S	S	R		R	A	D	A	R
U	T	A	H		N	A	T	U	R	A	L	I	Z	E
B	O	R	R	O	W	M	O	N	E	Y	F	R	O	M
S	O	N	O	R	A		P	O	E			T	V	S
			B	R	R	R		U	F	O	S			
P	E	S	S	I	M	I	S	T	S	C	A	U	S	E
L	A	P		N	E	M	O			A	N	N	U	L
E	R	I	N		D	E	N	S	E		D	I	M	E
A	T	T	A	R			D	A	N	A		T	A	C
T	H	E	Y	N	E	V	E	R	E	X	P	E	C	T
			S	A	D	A		I	R	M	A			
A	S	S			E	L	S		V	A	P	O	R	S
R	E	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	A	N	Y	W	A	Y
P	R	A	G	M	A	T	I	S	T		R	E	I	N
S	A	M	O	A		S	P	E	E		I	D	L	E

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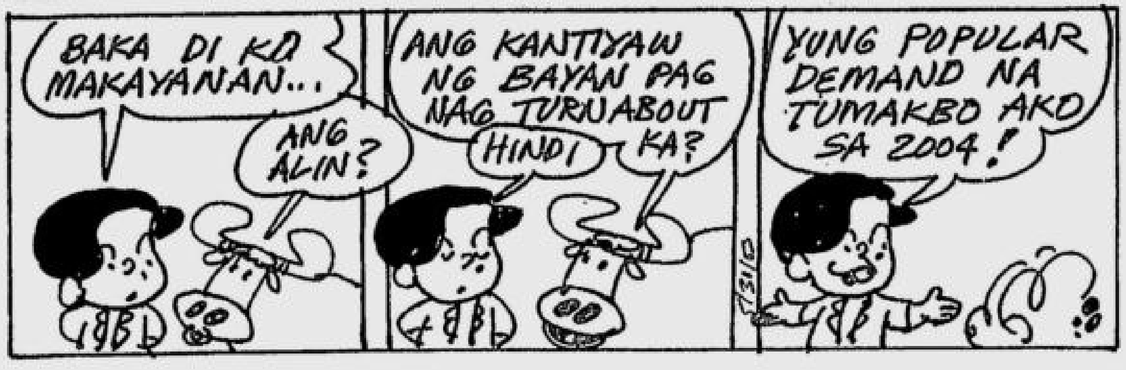
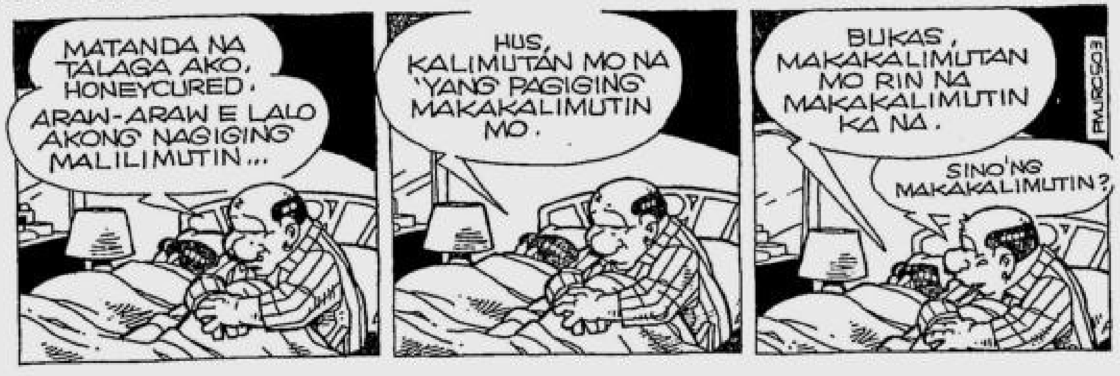
5/29/03

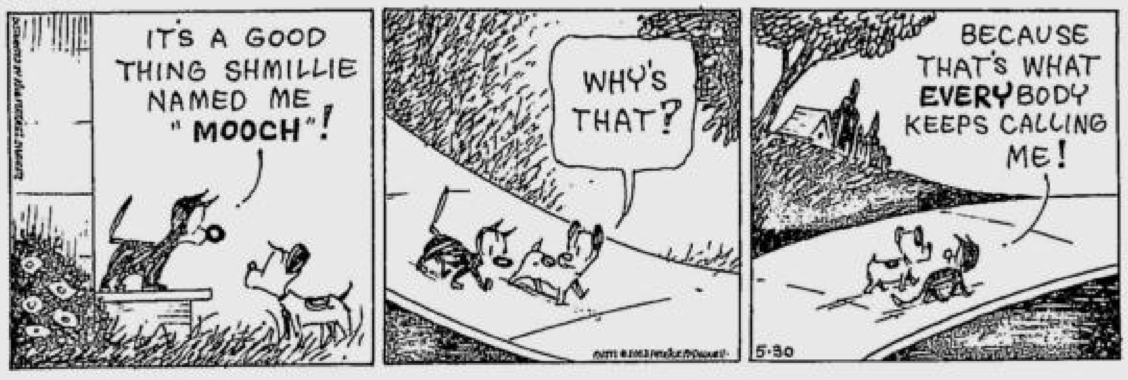
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BAKA DI KO MAKAYANAN...
ANG ALIN?
ANG KANTIYAW NG BAYAN PAG NAG TURNABOUT KA?
HINDI
YUNG POPULAR DEMAND NA TUMAKBO AKO SA 2004!

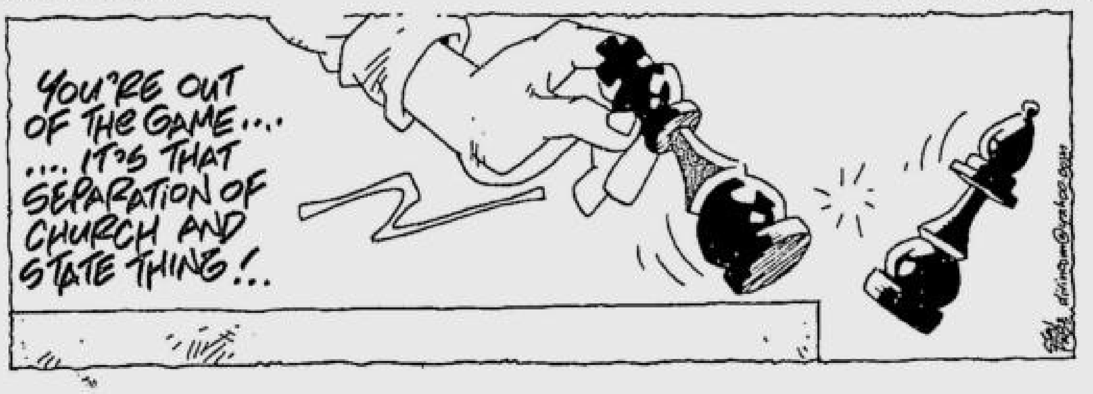
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATANDA NA TALAGA AKO, HONEYCURED. ARAW-ARAW E LALO AKONG NAGIGING MALILIMUTIN...
HUS, KALIMUTAN MO NA 'YANG PAGIGING MAKAKALIMUTIN MO.
BUKAS, MAKAKALIMUTAN MO RIN NA MAKAKALIMUTIN KA NA.
SINO'NG MAKAKALIMUTIN?
PMJR0503

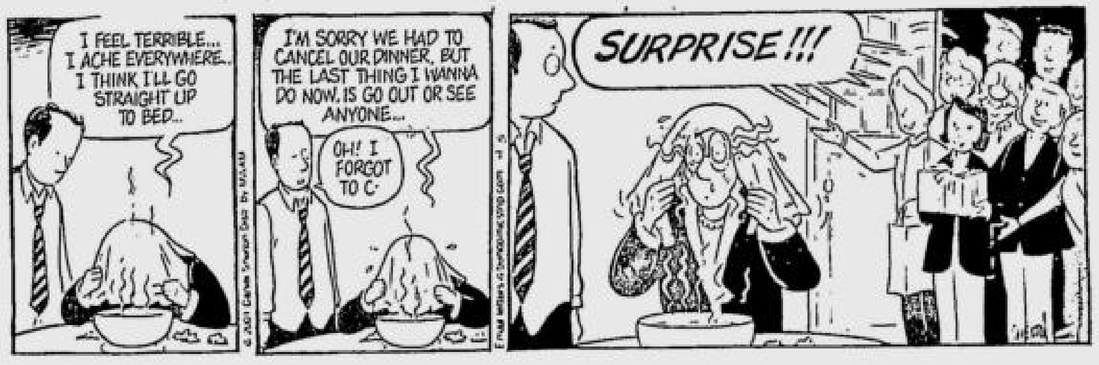
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S A GOOD THING SHMILLIE NAMED ME "MOOCH"!
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY KEEPS CALLING ME!
5-30

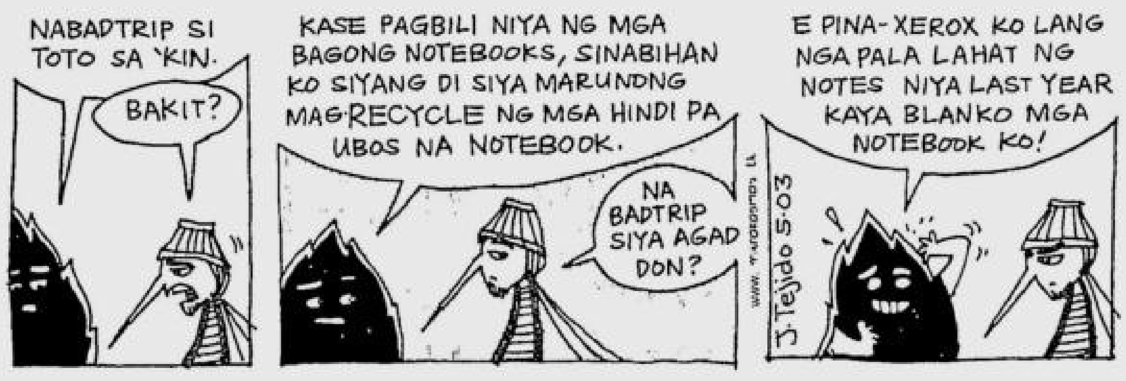
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU'RE OUT OF THE GAME... ...IT'S THAT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE THING!..

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I FEEL TERRIBLE... I ACHE EVERYWHERE... I THINK I'LL GO STRAIGHT UP TO BED...
I'M SORRY WE HAD TO CANCEL OUR DINNER, BUT THE LAST THING I WANNA DO NOW IS GO OUT OR SEE ANYONE...
OH! I FORGOT TO C-
SURPRISE!!!

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NABADTRIP SI TOTO SA 'KIN.
BAKIT?
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J. Tejido 5-03
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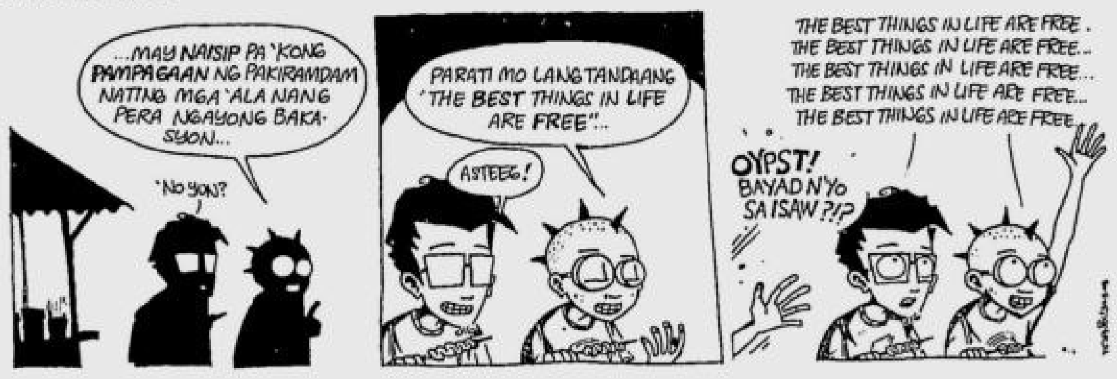
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA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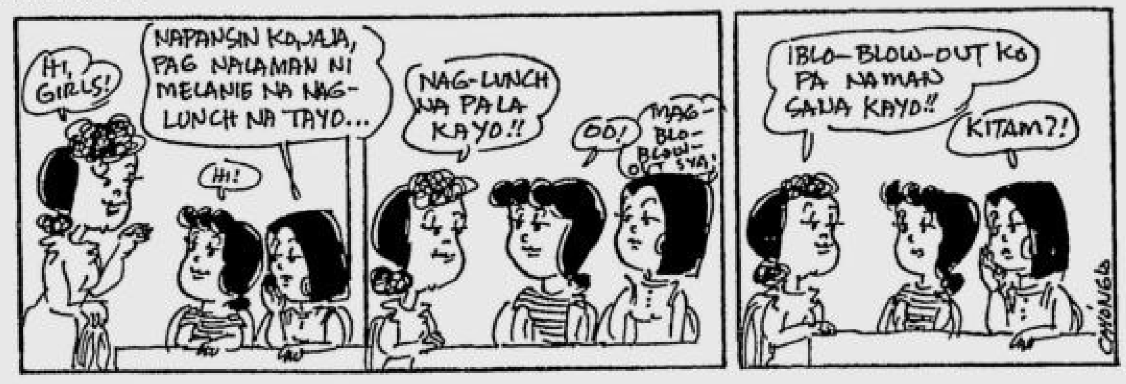
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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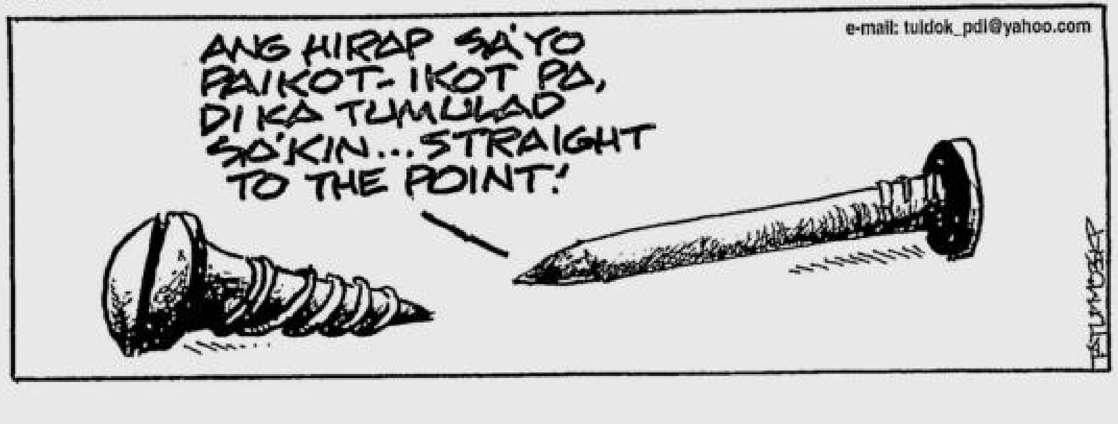
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


e-mail: tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com
ANG HIRAP SA'YO PAIKOT-IKOT PA, DI KA TUMULAD SA'KIN... STRAIGHT TO THE POINT!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ABS-CBN earned ₱1 billion in May alone, says exec

From page A1

yesterday in the ABS-CBN annual stockholders' meeting.

"Their income is only half of what we've made because our advertising rates are higher than theirs," Gabunada said of GMA 7. "It's a question of how the market values our product versus theirs. Let's just say that Brand A is valued more than Brand B."

Gabunada pointed out that the advertising rate for an ABS-CBN primetime program is P150,000 per 30 seconds, compared to GMA 7's P120,000.

"Even if they have more advertising load, we earn more in sales," he said.

Gabunada attributed the high income this year to the organizational restructuring of the network's sales and marketing department starting in the first quarter of 2002.

"We trained our sales people to market our airtime not only as a single commercial spot but as a basket of airtime values that supports our advertisers' communication plan," he said.

ABS-CBN last year trimmed the fat in its workforce and integrated subsidiaries Studio 23 and three cable channels into the core business of the network, according to Gabunada. Sales Traffic, the unit that implements advertising broadcast orders, was streamlined to allow cross-channel placements.

Vice president David Dominguez said the integration process was initially difficult.

"It was like merging various cultures together," said Dominguez. "We did not even speak the same language in the beginning. But we had a clear mandate from the top to integrate and bring in the revenue. And that's exactly what we did."

"It took about six months for our advertising partners to gain confidence in our innovations," said Orlando Galang, one of the three vice presidents for sales and marketing. "By mid-2002, we saw the numbers come in."

Maloli E. Manalastas, vice president for corporate and legal affairs, said the income was from TV broadcast alone.

"We have other sources of income–The Filipino Channel (TFC), ABS-CBN Interactive, the ANC News Channel, dzMM-AM radio and dwRR-FM, among others," Manalastas said. "GMA 7 is just about to go international. We did it a long time ago with TFC. Next quarter, we are launching TFC in Europe."

Ms D, recruiter and champion of OFWs

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DINA Bonnevie, the versatile, award-winning actress, is also a champion of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Dina didn't think twice when she was asked to host the second season of "Overseas Pinoy TV," the first tele-magazine show that tells success stories of overseas Pinoys. Unknown to many people, she has a placement agency that has sent many workers abroad.

"That's why I know most of the travails, problems and occupational hazards the workers usually encounter," she says.

Of the second season of "OPTV," Dina says, "This one's more like reality TV that focuses on the success, trials and travails of real people. There are many facets of OFW life that the public should know more about, like the need for a more thorough re-orientation of cultural, social, religious and even financial values before the workers settle in their 'second' countries."

She laments that most OFWs are not properly oriented on their new roles.

"Even when they have the proper accreditation, some of them don't even make it to first base because of their poor English," she maintains. "Some of them are clueless about the weather conditions where they're going. Most people, for instance, think the Middle East is a hot place, but it can actually be very cold there.

"We at OPTV envision a school where our OFWs can get the proper training and accreditation before working abroad."

Dina works with segment hosts such as **Kata Inocencio** and **Richard Merk**, as well as correspondents **Inah Borra** and **Tonette Quiogue**.

"OPTV" director **Don Escudero** believes the show brings OFWs closer to home. The show airs Mondays, 11 p.m. on RPN 9.

"This is one show where the sum of its parts is bigger than the whole," Escudero says. "It has grown from a gem of an idea to a successful venture that can help a lot of workers."

"BRINGING home" contract workers is one of the objectives of the telemagazine show hosted by Dina Bonnevie.

'King' and 'Magician'

ACTION king **Fernando Poe Jr.** complements the low-key image of his costar, billiard champ **Efren "Bata" Reyes**, in the action-comedy "Pakners."

The action king is aware that Bata has won championship trophies in billiard competitions in Asia, the United States and Europe and has made his country proud. Through it all, Bata has remained humble and shy.

"It's his humility that makes him," FPJ says of Bata. "He's unaffected by the fame and fortune that billiards has brought him."

FPJ considers it an honor to team up with Bata in a movie. Twenty years ago, Bata played a bit role, also as a billiard player, in the FPJ starrer, "Ginintuang Kamay." This time, he shares stellar billing with the action king.

"We were supposed to make this movie last year, but Bata had other commitments," FPJ says. "He competed and won in Cardiff, Wales, so we waited for him."

Bata has been tagged as "The Magician" of billiards. INQUIRER columnist **Conrad de Quiros** once wrote about Bata: "The shots he has produced on the pool table seem to defy the laws of the material world. But it is not the tricks he has pulled that catapulted him to the ranks of the greats of the game. It is the limpidity or clarity or simplicity of his game. Somehow, as one announcer put it, he always manages to put his cue ball right where he wants it, in preparation for his next shot, give or take a fumble or two. That is the real magic of it, his ability to make things look effortless."

CHAN

HUMILITY makes the man, FPJ says of billiards wizard Efren "Bata" Reyes.

On July 12, Bata will be formally inducted into the Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame. The Billiards Digest wrote an editorial in praise of him: "For nearly 20 years, Reyes has played the Pied Piper to pool fans everywhere, all the while teaching his contemporaries around the world that there is still plenty to learn on the table. When Reyes plays, people crowd around to watch. And it's been that way since Reyes first set foot on American soil back in January 1985 at that memorable event in Houston."

The editorial chronicled Bata's unmatched feat in billiards and concluded, "The topper? He's impossible to dislike. He says so little, yet his actions say so much. He smiles mostly with his eyes, but it's an endearing smile. He never complains. Never acts cheated. Is equally gracious in victory and defeat. He is why we have a Hall of Fame."

Bata will display his magic in "Pakners," directed by Tony Y. Reyes. The movie climaxes in a thrilling San Miguel Beer 9-Ball National Doubles Challenge, where FPJ and Bata, representing the Philippines, face the US team of McGrady and Jackson.

The movie also stars **January Isaac, Candy Pangilinan, Oyo Boy Sotto** and **Toni Gonzaga.**

Joemari in San Diego

SINGER-COMPOSER **Jose Mari Chan** continues to sell and delight concert audiences on foreign shores.

On May 31, Joemari will perform his timeless hits at the Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego in a show to celebrate Pentagon Cargo's 10th anniversary. Performing with him are San Diego-based entertainers **Helen** and **Willy Bongalos, Joy Hizon, Glitz Cariño, Lito Bautista, Mary Ann Ronilla, Haydee Baladad, Bernadette Regasa, Mark Lester Mejia** and **Krystelle Cruz.**

Backup singers are **Faye Edillaran, Gennie May Chavez** and **Edna Olares**, with the After Image Band.

Tickets to Joemari's concert are $45, $35 and $30 each. The show will be directed by **Mama Cass**, with **Lerrick Santos** as musical director. Executive producer is Pentagon Cargo owner **Rex Sta. Cruz.**

TRISHA SEPHORA

Singer in family gatherings is now a recording artist

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

FOR SOME time now, FM radio station 94.7 Mellow Touch has been plugging a revival of "Can't Stop Thinking About You." The singer is new Vicor artist Trisha Sephora.

Show biz seems to be in her blood. Trisha, 20, is a niece of Mary Massab, former Miss Magnolia titlist and former member of the cast of "Iskul Bukol." But Trisha says she was not so keen on becoming a recording artist.

"I am fond of singing because my father loves good music," says Trisha. "He has a wide collection of ballad records and I would play and listen to them. I would memorize the songs I like and during family gatherings, I would sing. I took up singing as a hobby, not as a profession. I never considered joining amateur contests or auditioned for TV. My singing was only for family affairs.

"I could have auditioned at Vicor, which is practically our neighbor, but I didn't. Little did I know that Vicor would discover me and give me the break as a recording artist. I consider it a blessing. I think it's God's will."

Trisha is in fourth year of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo. Ivory Records president Tony Ocampo spotted her when she sang at a wedding. Ocampo was impressed and on the spot asked Trisha to join Ivory's sister company, Vicor, which was on the look-out for new artists.

"I was flattered," Trisha recalls. "Since I don't keep a hectic schedule in school, I accepted. I don't even have to commute far because the recording studio is just a 10-minute drive from our house. And the Vicor offices are within walking distance from our place."

Her first album, called "Trisha," is produced by Margot Gallardo and is a mix of originals and revivals. A bonus track is "Someone," written by Trisha herself.

"I couldn't sleep one night and words started playing in my mind," she remembers. "I jotted them down and I recorded the melody. I have composed 15 songs already."

SEPHORA

Aside from "Can't Stop Thinking About You," the album also contains the revivals "Never My Love," "Baby Love," "As Tears Go by," and "Para Kang Sine (Ma-drama Ka Kasi)."

Trisha is suffering from a respiratory condition called spontaneous pneumothorax, in which air from the lungs is trapped in the chest cavity. It is marked with severe pain when it attacks and it prohibits her from taking an airplane or going scuba diving because of the pressure. She is therefore thankful that the long hours of recording went smoothly. Whenever she feels an attack is coming, she grabs her emergency kit or drives to the nearest hospital for an injection.

"When I was in Miriam College, I wanted to join the glee club but since it would require a lot of traveling, which is bad for me, I had no choice but to back out. Getting too tired is bad for my condition."

Trisha Sephora de Leon Massab is the eldest of the five children of Sammy and Pia de Leon. She has Syrian blood from her grandfather side but is otherwise very Filipina except for her very fair complexion.

She describes her music as pop with a twist. The Corrs, Sharon Cuneta and Martin Nievera are among her favorite artists.

Rockers jam in Jack Daniel's party

SHOW TIME

JACK DANIEL'S brings together top bands, acoustic artists and singers for a first of its kind jam session, "Jack Daniel's Lives Here in Session," tonight at Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City.

To perform are Ricci Gurango of Mojofly, Hannah of Session Road, Wendell Garcia of Barbie's Cradle, Nino Mendoza of Blue Jean Junkies, Rann Golamco formerly of Mojofly, Allen Umali formerly of 3rd World Project, Edwin "Coco" Coo of Blue Jean Junkies, Zach Lucero of Imago, Norby David of Skin, Jay Padua of Overtone, Frank de Castro of 7 Foot Jr., as well as Raimund Marasigan formerly of Eraserheads, Marc Abaya of Sandwich, Kitchi Nadal of Mojofly and Adrienne Sarmiento. There will also be surprise performers.

Jamming starts at 9 p.m. at Bargo, Chicago Restaurant and Cable Car.

The Jack Daniel's party is the first of a series of events in leading bars and restaurants all over Metro Manila.

Guests of the "Jack Daniel's Lives Here in Session" kick-off party in Eastwood will be treated to free-flowing Jack and Coke, games and surprises. For more information, call 687-4883 to 84.

Luke Mejares on his own

SINCE childhood, Luke Mejares knew he wanted to be a singer.

Growing up in his native Bohol, Luke was a serious R&B and soul fan, listening to the likes of Michael Jackson, Gary Valenciano, Stylistics and Prince. He also got into jazz and classical music and found additional musical inspiration in the likes of Boyz II Men, Shai, R. Kelly, Maxwell, Janet Jackson, Brian McKnight, Public Announcement and Craig David.

He got his first big break when he was recruited to front South Border. He came through with flying colors, dazzling audiences with his soulful singing voice and presence as a live performer. He also soon gained lucrative endorsement deals and eventually came into his own as a solo performer.

As a solo artist, Luke has performed with some of the music industry's finest, like Kyla, Lani Misalucha, Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez. He regularly appears on ABS-CBN's Sunday show "ASAP Mania."

Recently, he covered the Close-Up hit tune "Just a Smile Away," which launched a compilation album marking the toothpaste brand's 75 years.

Luke is now gathering materials for his first album, which is scheduled for release in the third quarter of the year.

Luke teams up with Kyla in the "No Curfew Nights: Kyla & Luke Mejares Back to Back Special," tonight at Virgin Cafe and on June 28 at the Hard Rock Cafe. Show time is 9:30 p.m., with Gabby Eigenmann as special guest.

Tickets are P380 each, inclusive of one standard drink. For inquiries, call Virgin Cafe at 373-8766.

MEJARES

'Showgirls' in Casino Filipino-Angeles repeat

DESPITE the rains, temperatures will rise when sexy stars Regine Tolentino, Angela Velez, Aleck Bovick, Michelle Bayle, Jenny Miller, Angelica Jones, Michelle Estevez, Apreal Tolentino, Ynez Veneracion and Cherry Lou steam up the Casino Filipino in Angeles City tomorrow night, starting at 9 p.m., in the dance concert "Showgirls," a repeat of the successful show held at Casino Filipino-Mimosa early this year.

Described as "Strictly for adults only," "Showgirls" will be a grand "battle of the bodies" as the 10 screen sirens try to prove which one of them rates highest in talent, beauty and sex appeal.

For tickets and reservations, call 911-5555 (SM Ticketnet), (045)332-1196 to 98 (Casino Filipino-Angeles) or (02) 920-?2643 or (0918)922-1542 (Live Artists Production).

"Showgirls" is a presentation of Live Artists Production and Casino Filipino-Angeles with sponsors Gilbey's Gin, Century Resort Hotel, Betis House of Decor, Mekeni Food Corporation, Master Styling Gel, Nature's Spring Mineral Water and Converse.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

MATRIX: RELOADED **R13** 1:25,4:15, 7:05,9:55	**AGENT CODY BANKS** **PG13** 1:00,3:10, 5:20,7:30,9:40	**HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS** **P13** 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,10:00
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MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
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CORONET A	PAKNERS
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QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANG TANGING INA
B	PAKNERS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DAYO
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CINEMA-3	HIRAM
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
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LORES

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AMAZING
THELMA ADAMS, US WEEKLY

AN INCREDIBLE RIDE
JOEL SIEGEL, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

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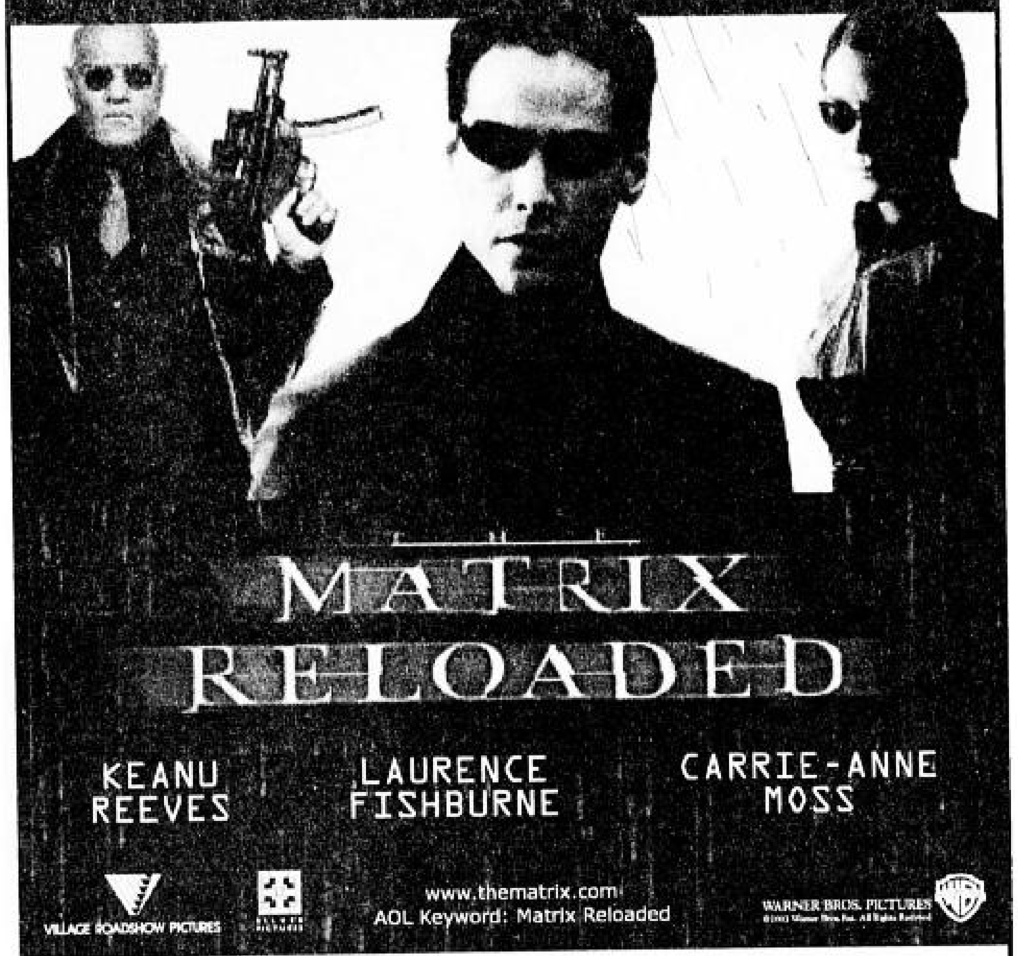
ELVIS MITCHELL, THE NEW YORK TIMES

'RELOADED' LEAVES YOU HUNGRY FOR MORE
DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK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FPJ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTATION

Ayala Malls presents
KEVYN LETTAU
live!

Glorietta Activity Center
May 31, 7pm
Admission is free!

Alabang Town Center Activity Center
June 1, 6pm
For seat reservations at ATC, call the Customer Service Booth at 842-2782.

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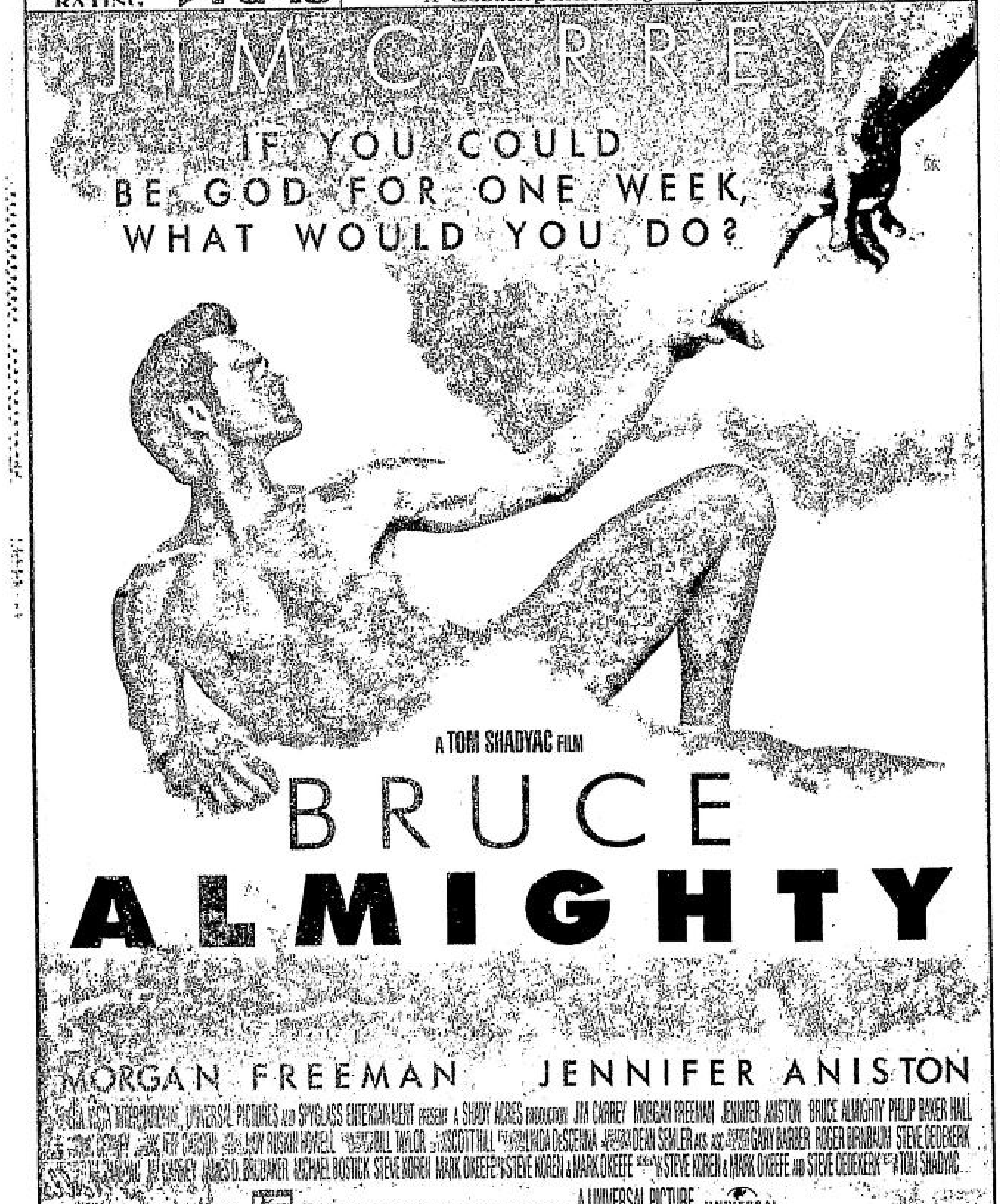
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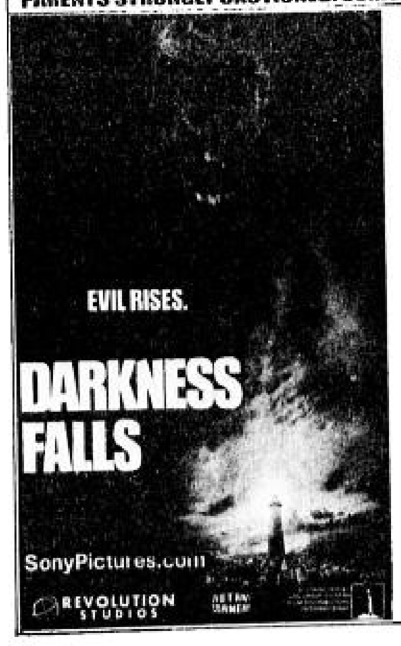

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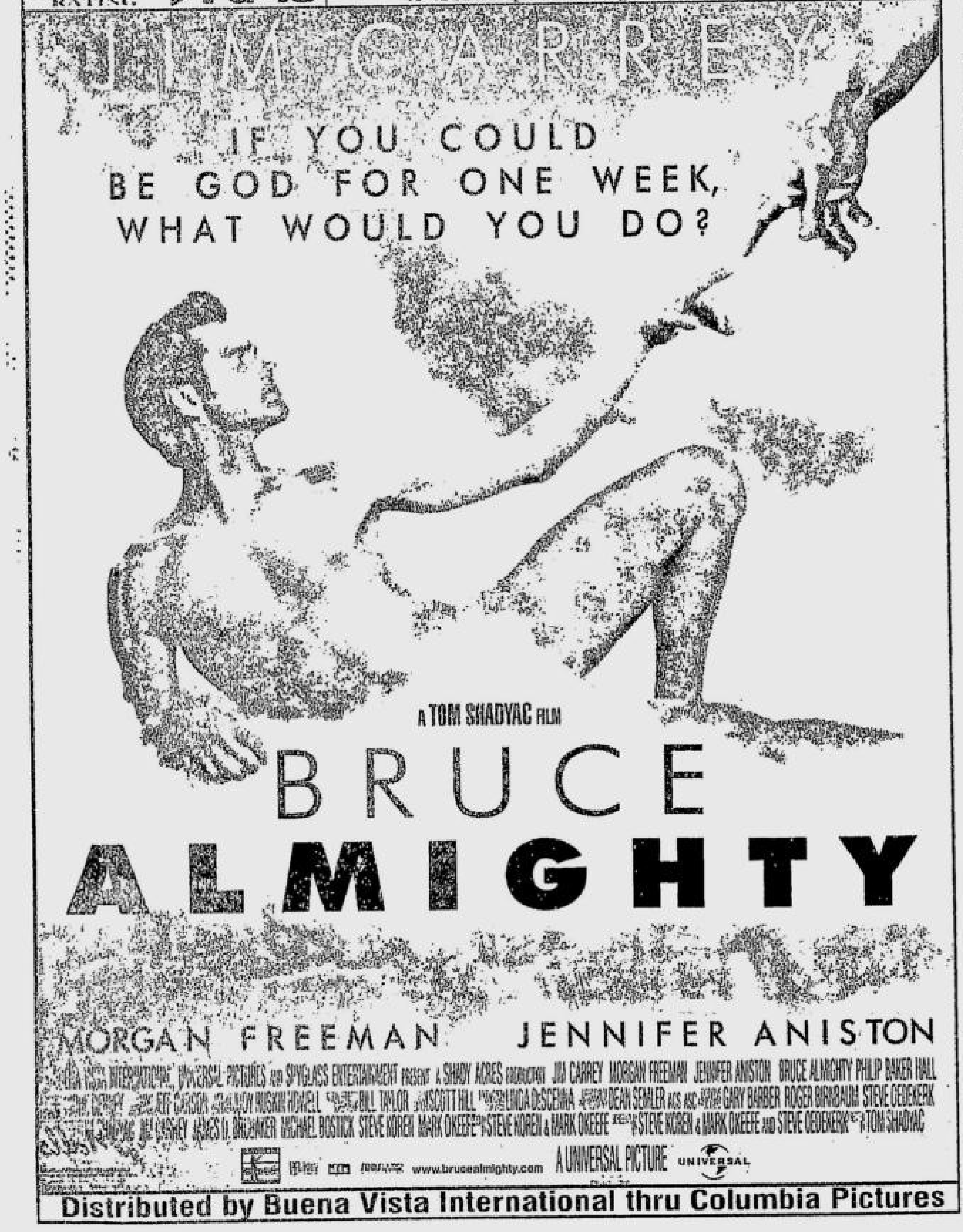

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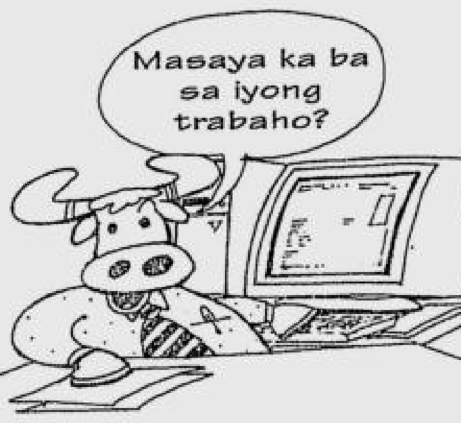

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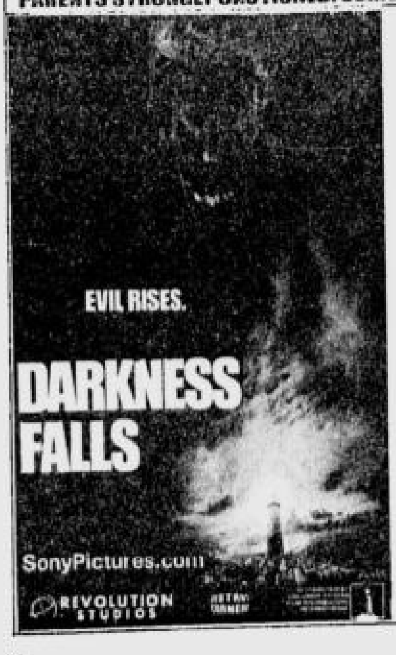

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More new soaps coming up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WITH so many soap serials now stirring up such a voluminous lather on our TV screens, you'd think that viewers would be fed up to here with the overworked program format. Sadly or happily (as the case may be), local televiewers appear to be patsies when it comes to emotional entertainment or punishment, so more new TV soaps are in the works.

Already being telecast on Channel 2 is a new week night series starring **Jericho Rosales, Kristine Hermosa, Marvin Agustin** and **Kaye Abad.** Its story about three really close chums whose friendship is challenged by Kristine's falling in love with a total stranger (Jericho) is clicking with viewers, so the show about youthful love, friendship and aspirations should have a popular run.

Early on, however, the new series is compromised by Kristine's being cast as a bus conductress. In all the decades we've been riding buses, we've never seen a *konduktora* who looks remotely as pretty, lily-white and mild-mannered as Kristine.

Believability appears to be a minor consideration in soap operas, and that's really sad because it shows how whimsical those productions are, both in intent and execution.

This results in a big loss in terms of genuine emotional impact, involvement and empathy. It sends out a signal to viewers that the events they're watching are patently unreal, and thus not worth their total involvement. As a result, emotions in TV soaps, for all of their volume and hysteria, remain at a shallow level, and fail to affect viewers in a profound way.

Another new soap (or drama, comedy and action combination), "Basta't Kasama Kita," started telecasting last May 26, topbilling the strong stellar combination of **Robin Padilla** and **Judy Ann Santos.**

But the most potentially interesting new series is "Buttercup," with eight young stars led by **Claudine Baretto** and **Piolo Pascual** playing young friends who have different kinds of relationships to develop or resolve.

This is a promising series because its focus on young adults fills a perceived gap in local TV programming, which concentrates on shows about adolescents and teens.

These new soaps are welcome because they also provide new opportunities for experienced actors to tackle substantial roles that are generally not made available to them on the big screen.

Thus, the Juday-Binoe show also stars the admirable likes of **Robert Arevalo** and **Tetchie Agbayani.** Robert is a veteran actor-director who's had a long and distinguished career, while Tetchie started out as a sexy performer but later proved her thespic mettle in productions directed by **Eddie Romero** and other top filmmakers.

As soaps continue to reign on the TV screen, we note that the new series are starting to provide variations on the traditionally dramatic format, like the mix of action, comedy and drama in "Basta't Kasama Kita." These variations could enable the soap format to remain popular even longer with local televiewers. Gulp!

Auditions for 'Oraciones'

THE CCP's forthcoming Sangandaan festival showcases productions that dramatize Filipino-American relations in the past 100 years. Tanghalang Pilipino's contribution to the festival is "Oraciones," made up of plays by **Rene Villanueva, Liza Magtoto, Rody Vera** and **Nicolas Pichay,** and directed by **Jose Estrella.**

Auditions will be held today, May 30, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the CCP conference room for 10 male and female actors for the production. They should speak both English and Filipino, have Filipino Caucasian features, and must be at least 18 years old. Special talents (acrobatics, juggling, etc.) are also welcome.

The play will run from July 18 to Aug. 4 at the CCP Little Theater.

Nanette and Jon

ON June 14, **Nanette Inventor** and **Jon Santos** will perform at The Venue in Davao City. The comedy-musical show is titled "Xtra-Laff," and should be a special treat.

At 3 p.m. on June 8, **Angela Rose E. Calimon** performs in a solo violin recital with collaborating artist **Jonathan Arevalo Coo** (pianist) at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1, Makati City.

The Manila Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation presentation is part of its Young Artists Series 2003. Call 818-1403 or 840-7000, locals 2630 and 2258.

Feedback

FROM **Jose Mari Maycacayan** of Binangonan, Rizal: "Congratulations for your widely-read column. Through Viewfinder, I would like to commend the hard work of some outstanding TV personalities and their show: **Dyan Castellejo** and **Marc Nelson,** 'Sports Unlimited.' **Mel Tiangco,** 'Frontpage.' **Candy Pangilinan, Willie Nepomuceno, Leo Martinez** and **Jon Santos,** 'Ispup.' **Noli de Castro,** 'Magandang Gabi, Bayan.'

"**Robert Alejandro,** 'Art Is Kool.' **Butch Francisco** and **Rosanna Roces,** 'Startalk.' **Charlene Gonzales,** 'Feel at Home with Charlene.' **Paolo Bediones** and **Regine Tolentino,** 'Digital LG Quiz.' **Sharon Cuneta,** 'Sharon.' **Ai Ai de las Alas** and **Allan K,** 'Sing Galing. **Eula Valdez,** 'Darating ang Umaga.'"

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P1200 Blowout
Crispy Tuna Tail
Chicharon Bulaklak
Drunken Shrimps
Crispy Sisig
Choice of 2 buckets of beer or 2 pitchers of Mixed-up Margarita

P1000 Blowout
Squid Sisig
Crispy Pata
Inihaw na Tuna Belly
Mixed nuts
Choice of 2 buckets of beer or 2 pitchers of Mixed-up Margarita

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NIKKI VALDEZ
ang Tanging INA
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SM City Sta. Mesa, 4 pm
SM Megamall, 5 pm
SM City North Edsa, 6 pm
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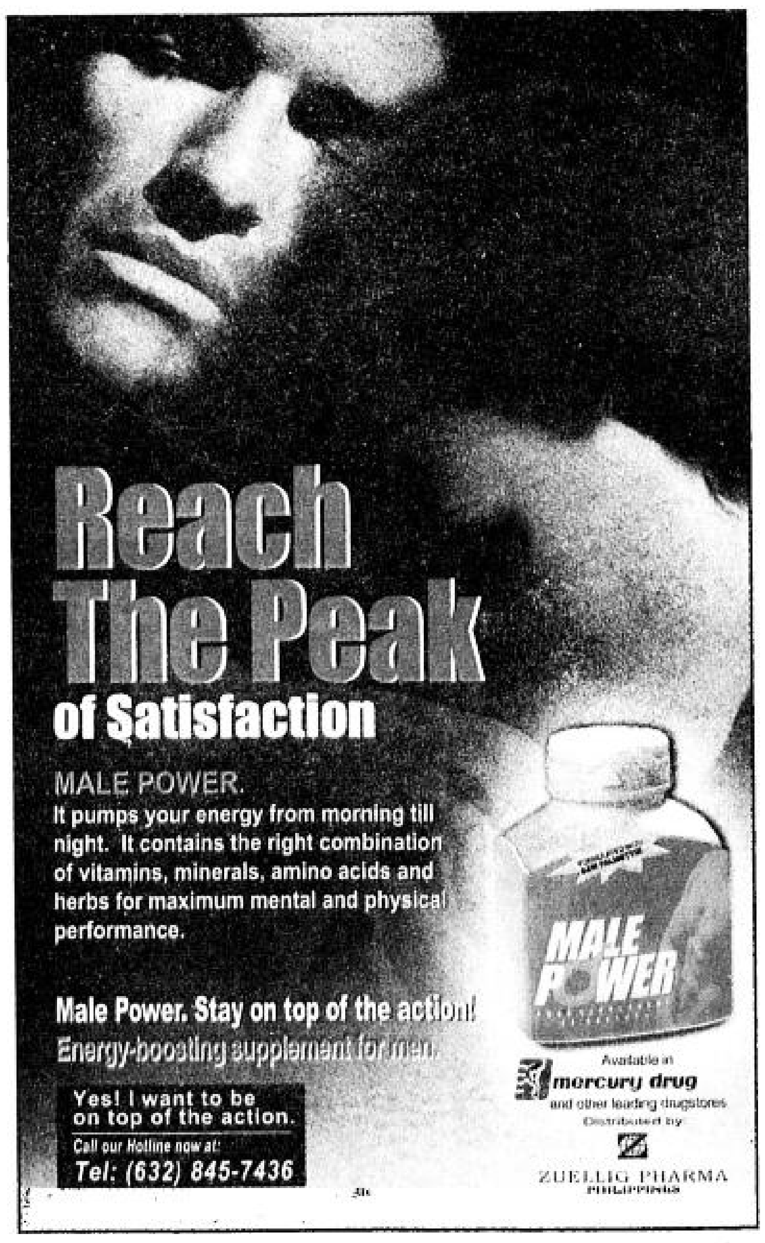

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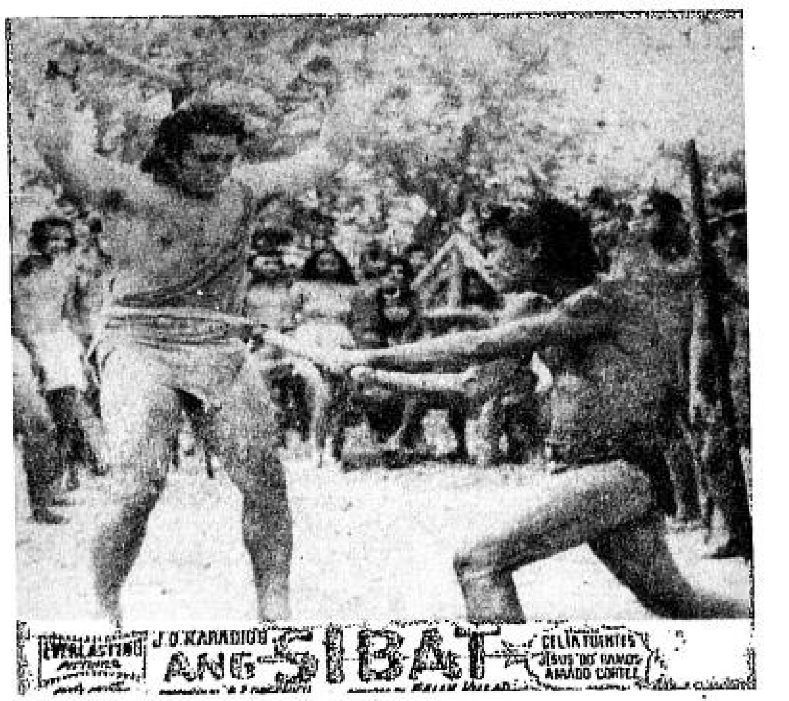
'Eat Bulaga' goes to Makati

TOP-RATING noontime show "Eat Bulaga" will go on a remote telecast from the University of Makati tomorrow, Saturday, as part of the week-long celebration of "Araw ng Makati," marking the city's 333rd foundation day.

Meanwhile, a display of different colors, tones and hues is set to be unveiled in Makati today as it holds the annual grand parade along Ayala Avenue at 3 p.m.

Spearheading the parade are distinguished men and women of Makati who includes Mayor Jejomar Binay and other city officials. Also joining the lineup of personalities are leaders of Makati's business community and representatives from civic and professional groups.

Vibrant floats representing different Makati companies, establishments and organizations will parade through the streets of Makati.


RAMOS in one of his non-Og movies.

Og Ramos, 'Tarzan of Philippine . . .

From page C7

He married Leozarine Querubin from his town and their wedding was a celebrated one. Querubin, Miss Bicolandia in the early 1960s, is the daughter of a pharmacist.

Their families had been long-time friends. Ramos' father, Dr. Vicente Ramos, dealt with the Querubin family which owned a big drugstore in Tigaon.

FPJ rising

By the 1960s, lead roles had stopped coming for Ramos, and he was relegated to cameo roles. Fernando Poe Jr. was the rising star in the movies.

But Ramos was ready to leave the movies. He established himself as a real estate broker, although he would continue to do bit roles in movies.

Ramos and his wife had five children. When the children were going to college, the Ramoses lived in Manila and would visit Tigaon only during the town fiesta and Holy Week.

Maria Ana Karina, the youngest of the five children, described her father as charming and charismatic. She recalls that while she was still a student at the Far Eastern University, she accompanied her father to a gym for his thrice weekly workout. He was already in his late fifties then. She says young women who were also working out would steal glances at her father while he did his bench press, his powerful legs planted on the floor.

Crushed bones

Maria Ana Karina giggles as she shows this writer a faded photograph of Ramos receiving a cash prize for winning the title of Mr. Philippines 1951.

"He is so cute here," the daughter gushes, and then she adds with a sad smile, "Sayang."

She says her father was still in good shape when he died of cancer July 26, 1992, exactly eight months after the cancer was found in his prostate.

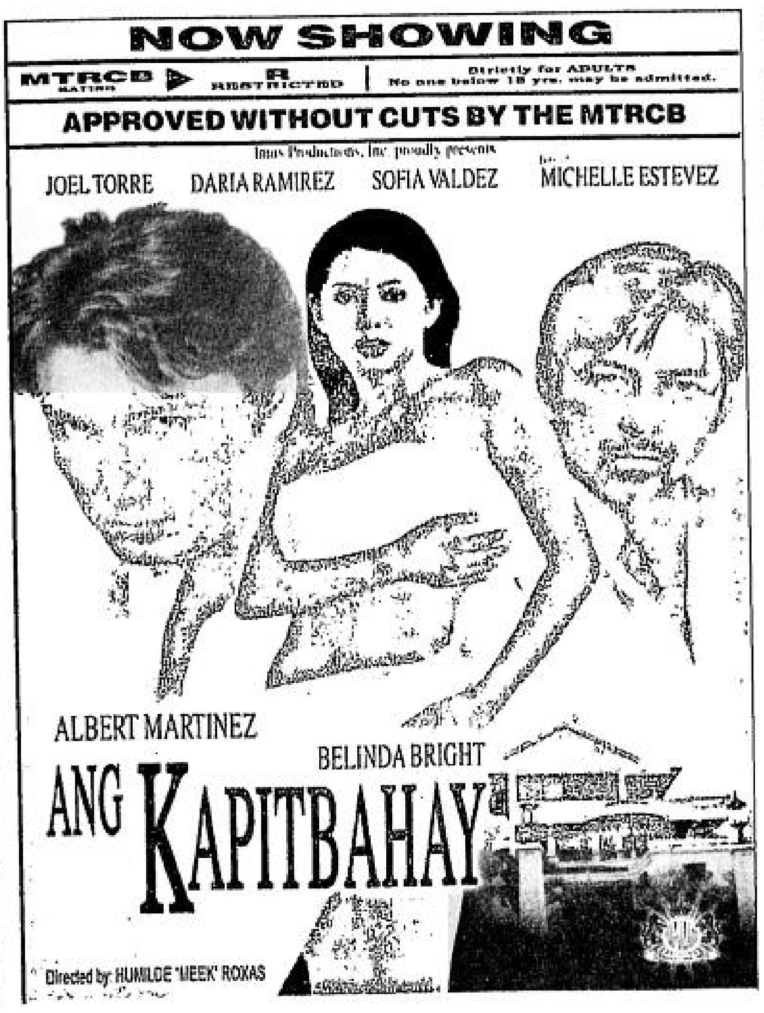
After one workout session, Ramos had complained of discomfort in his pelvic bones. He underwent surgery, but his condition only grew worse. Two months later, he was diagnosed with bone cancer.

"He said the pain felt as if his bones were being crushed," Maria Ana says as she continues poring over her father's old photographs.

Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau

DID YOU KNOW...

Blue Soda image model **Rafael Rosell** does not mind taking a tricycle from ABS-CBN to his condo unit nearby. While munching something and holding a Starbucks paper cup, Rafael hailed a tricycle one Sunday afternoon after a guest appearance on an ABS-CBN program. The guy grew up in Norway and didn't speak a word of Filipino when he first came to Manila two years ago. Today, he speaks Filipino like a native and can even chat up the tricycle driver.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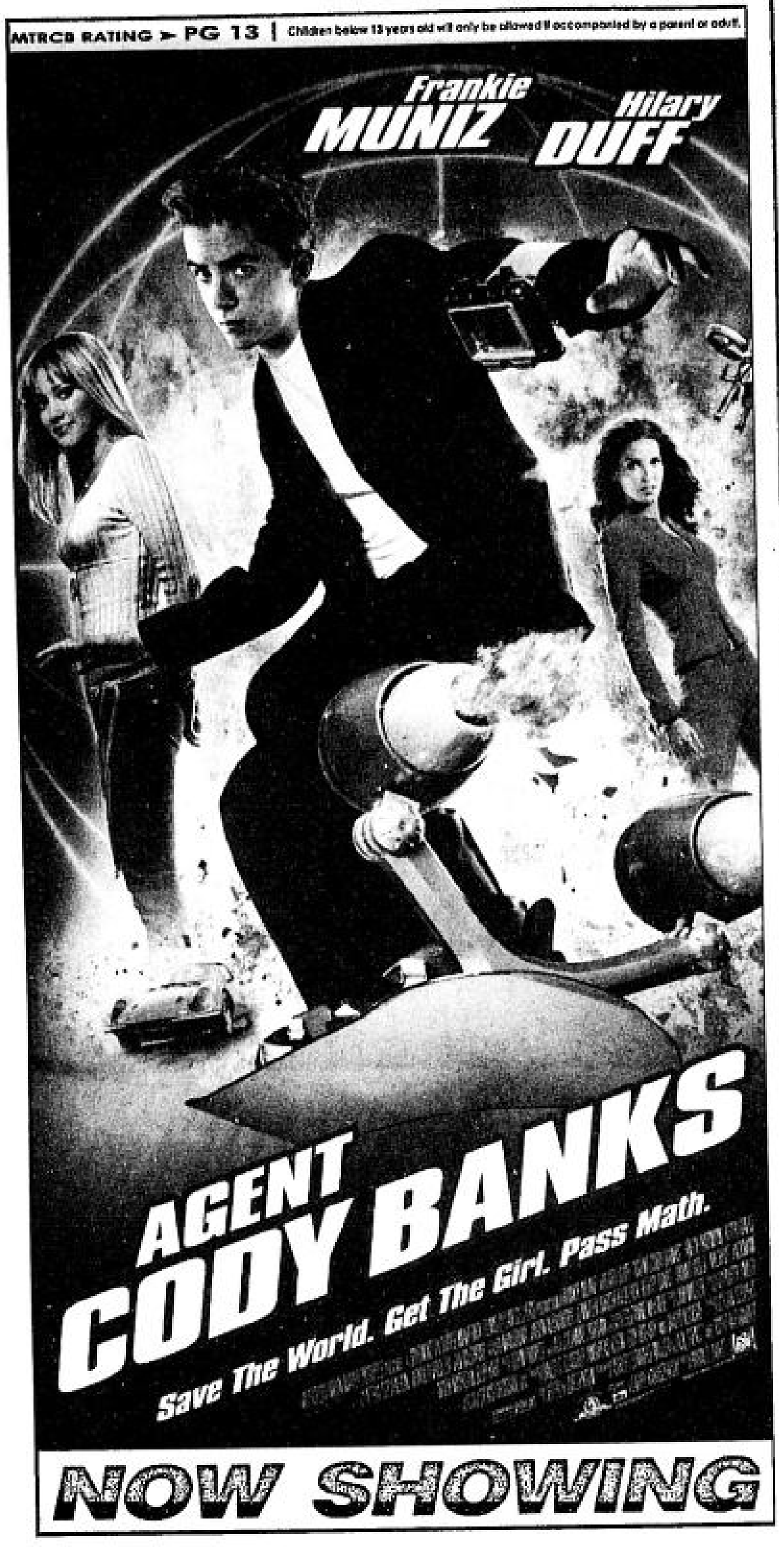
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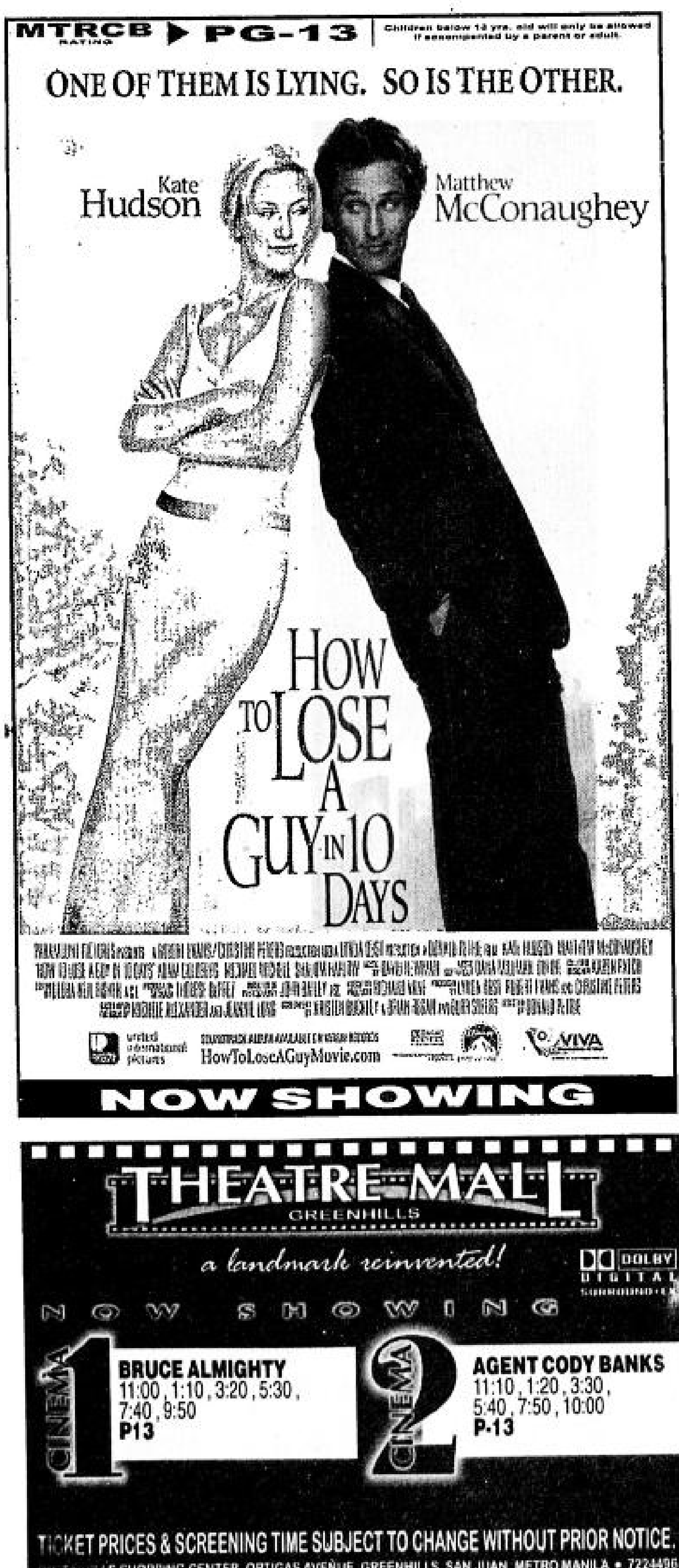
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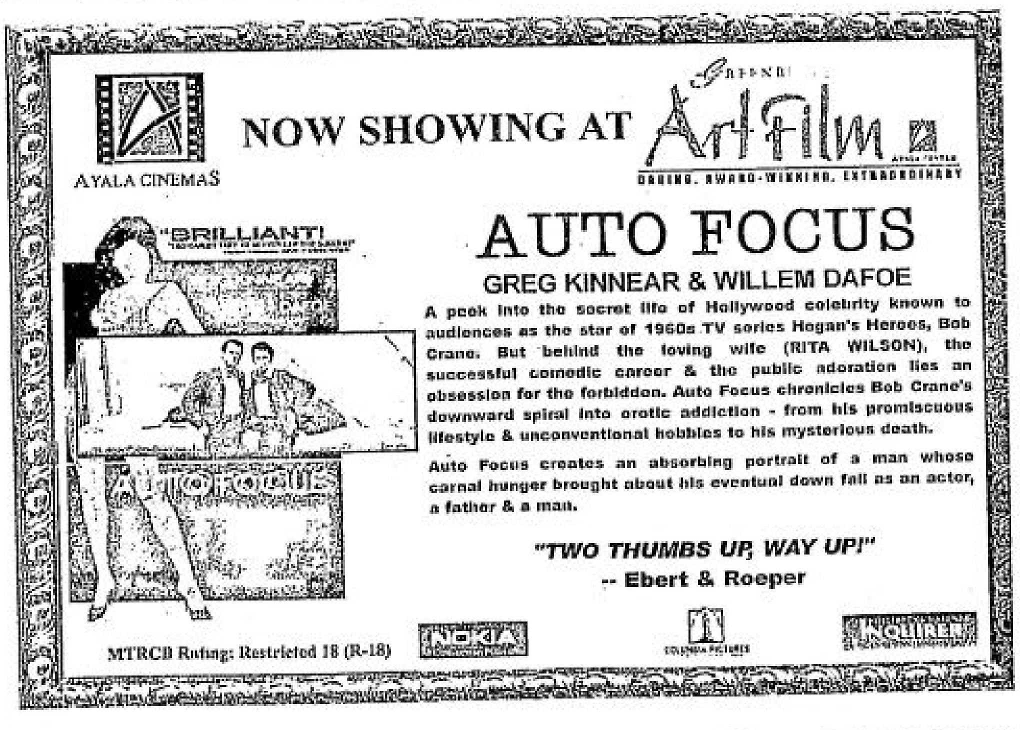
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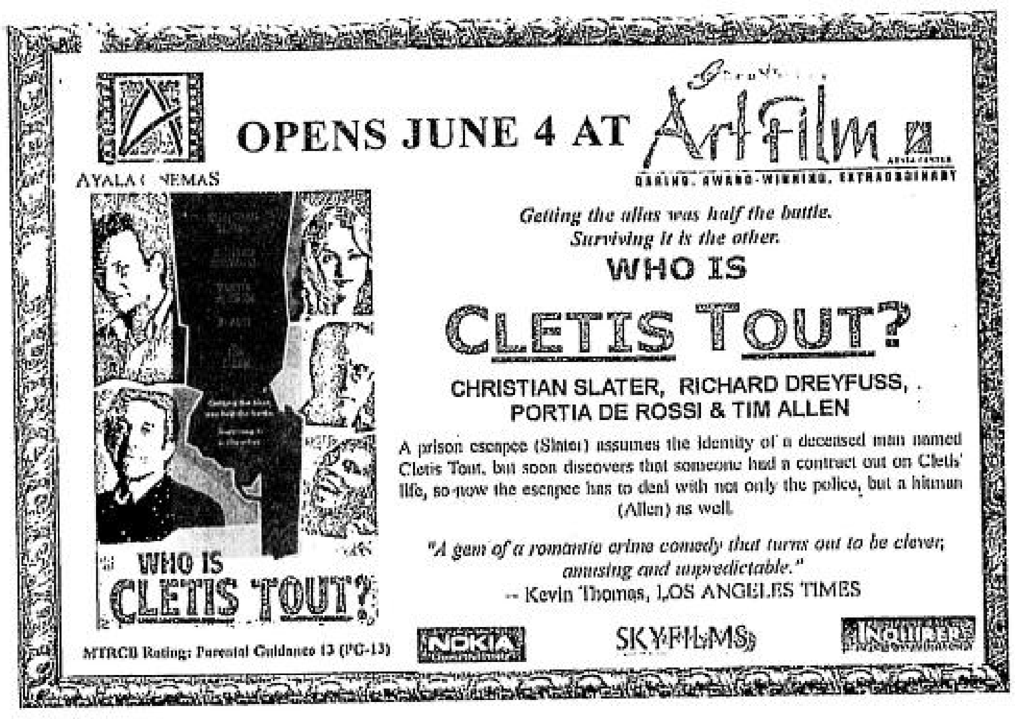
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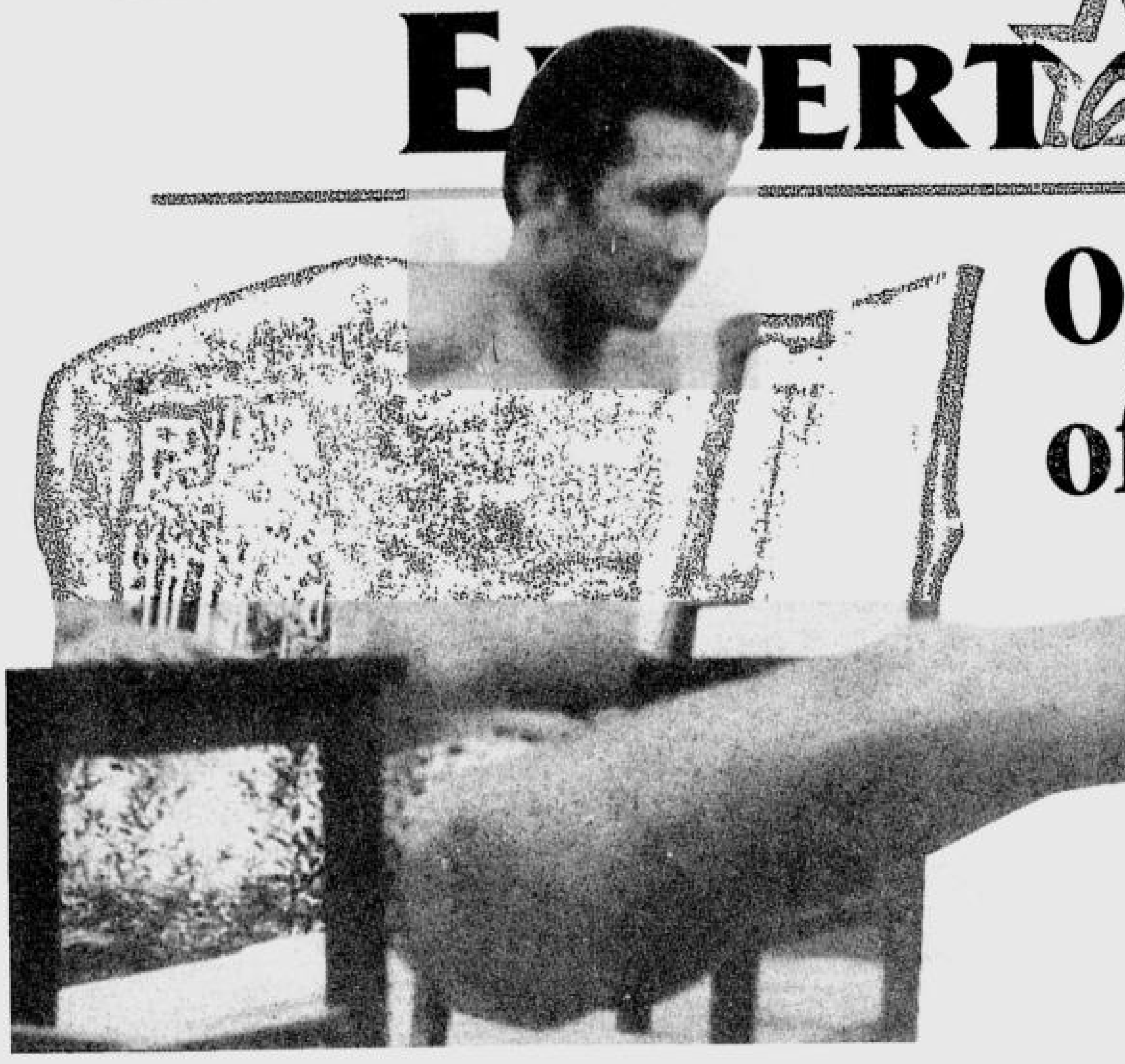

Og Ramos, 'Tarzan of Philippine movies

YESTERDAY

NAGA CITY—At 23, he had won the bodybuilding title Mr. Philippines in 1951. With his buff body as his ticket, he became a big star.

By 1992, Jesus "Og" Ramos was still in good shape for a man in his 60s. But cancer had ruined his prostate and crept quickly into his bones.

By July 1992, or just eight months after the disease was discovered, Og, known as the Tarzan of Philippine movies, was dead.

"When I was already a teenager, he told me that he retired from the movies because he hated it when his privacy was being invaded," recalls his daughter Maria Ana Karina, 32, who still lives in their native town, Tigaon in Camarines Sur.

Her father was the equivalent of today's movie hunks. Back then, the correct thing to do with actors who had buff bodies to show off was to make them play a Tarzan character. Thus, starbuilders created a character named Og, the man from the jungle, and made Ramos play it in his first movie, "Og sa Mindanao." This was followed by, among others, "Og sa Visayas" and "Og sa Luzon."

To moviegoers, Ramos would always be Og.

The first Og movie was an instant hit. In his subsequent movies, "Og" was always inserted in his name. Eventually, Jesus was dropped and he became Og Ramos.

OG/ C6

RAMOS took good care of his body and was paired with big stars like the late Tessie Quintana.

Before she left for Panama City, where she is competing in this year's Miss Universe pageant, Binibining Pilipinas **Carla Gay Balingit** took a three-day crash course in Spanish at the Berlitz Language Center in Makati.

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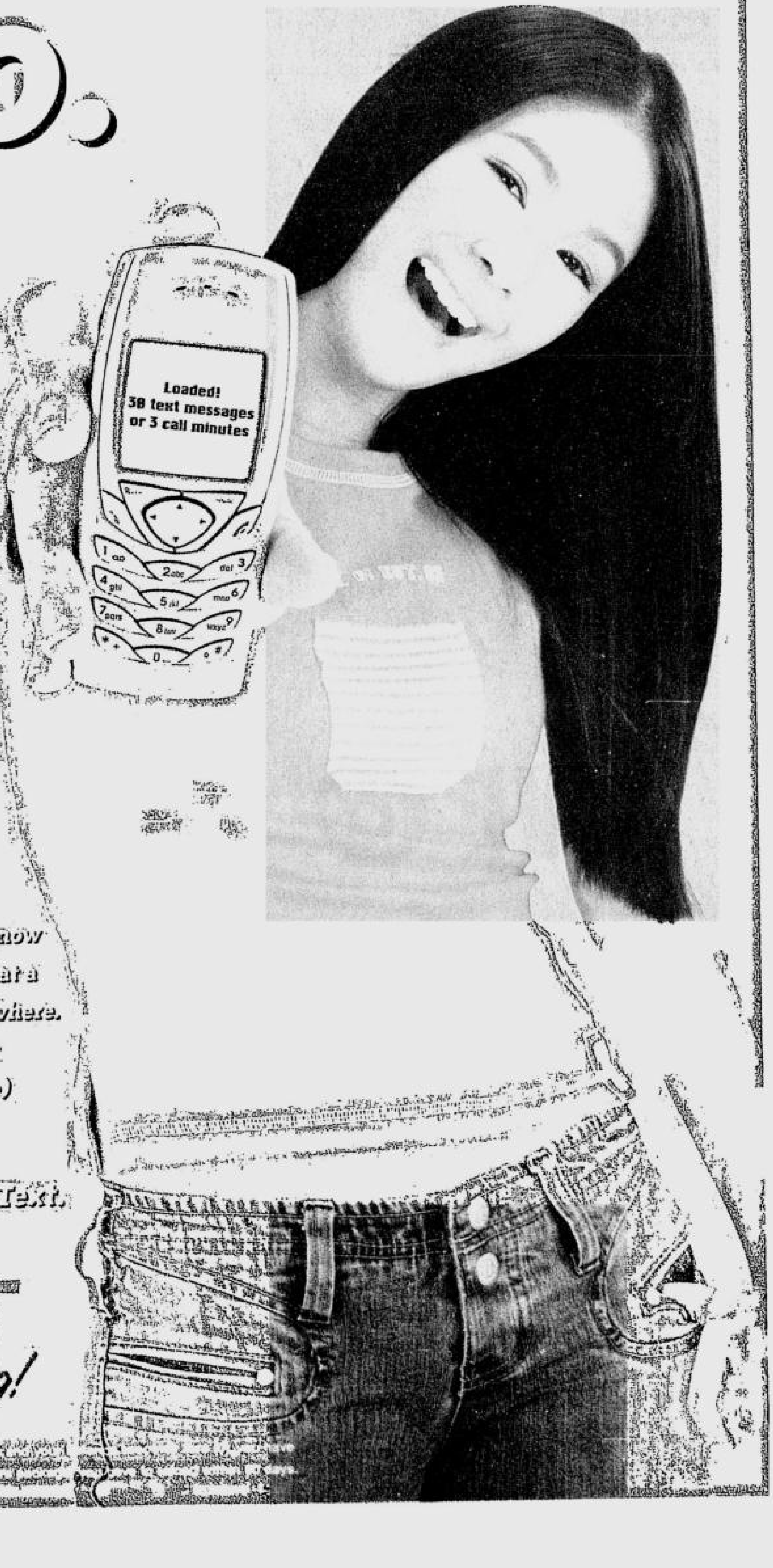

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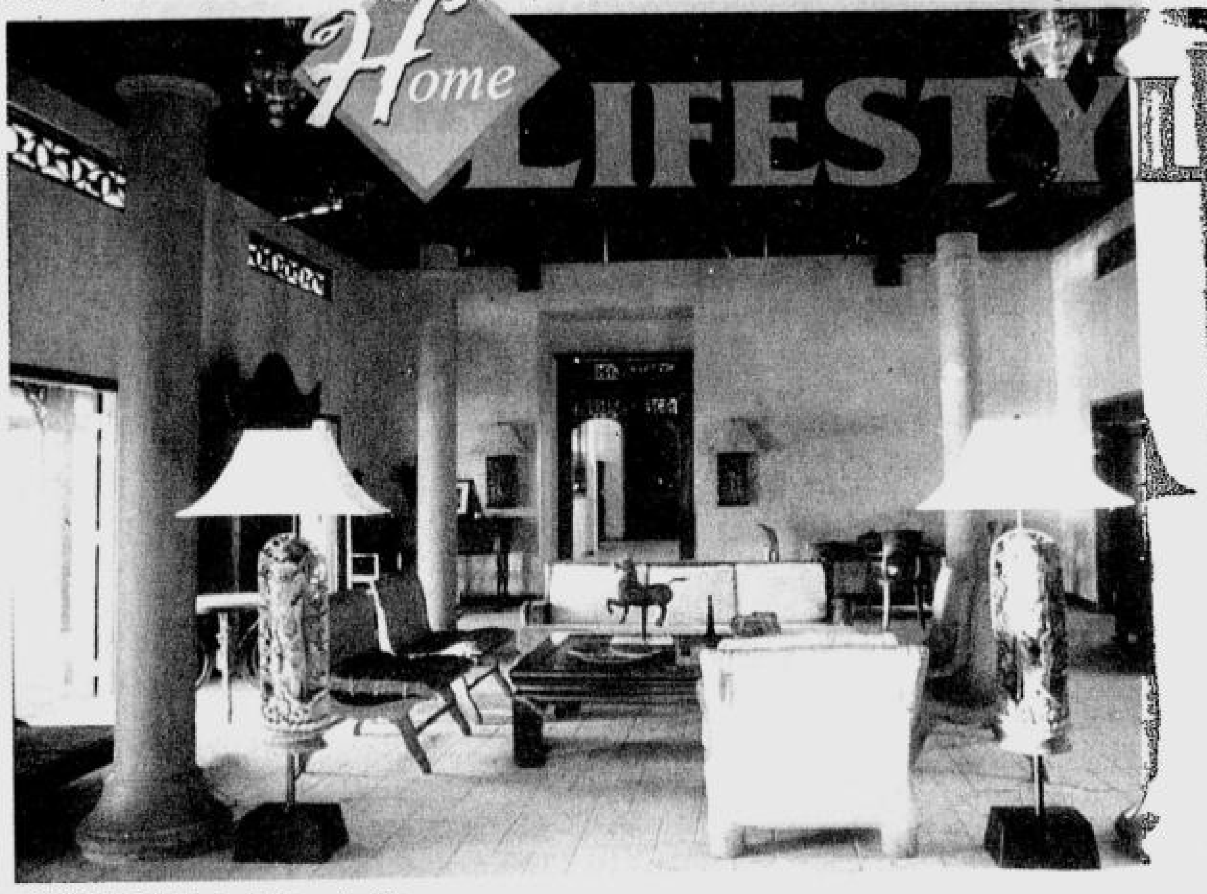
Art as stew and symbiosis

A house set to become a home for artists and writers represents a natural interactive process between art and function, structure and sensibility


THE "SALONE de los Fortunatos" is supported by four huge terracotta colored pillars, illuminated on top by Moroccan lanterns. The floor lamps are antique Balinese women statuary converted into lamps. Bamboo and molave divans are a one-of-a-kind design by Ernest Santiago, and the sofas are by Ed Yrezabal.

(**Editor's Note:** *Last October, artist Edsel Moscoso wrote about his work in progress which, mind you, is not art on canvas but art as a seaside domicile. He envisions the house as a safe harbor for artists and their creative endeavors. Well, it looks like the house is nearing completion. Here, Moscoso writes about the fabulous kitchen he has just added.*)

Text and photos by Edsel H. Moscoso
Contributor

THE REAL secret to building a fine house is allowing the structure to dictate what to do with it. As the system goes, the symbiosis between the builder and the house is established based on mutual respect.

In this instance, the artist must be fully aware of the consequences, if he is to rush the structure into completion.

As it is, Villa Remedios (previously known as Durungkaan) has been undergoing development for the last four years and it is still not finished.

Such is the respect for the flow of stylistic considerations that the patient artistic soul has to wait for the proper solution to embellish the already existing structure. Sometimes certain sections of the house would lie fallow, awaiting inspiration for them to come alive.

The sporadic outburst of creativity has rather become the norm in Villa Remedios for, like the proverbial woman after whom it was named, the house continually fascinates because of its pristine, monastic elegance!

Sometimes the effect can be rather theatrical, for the elements of different periods contribute their share in building a residence for the artists and writers of this country.

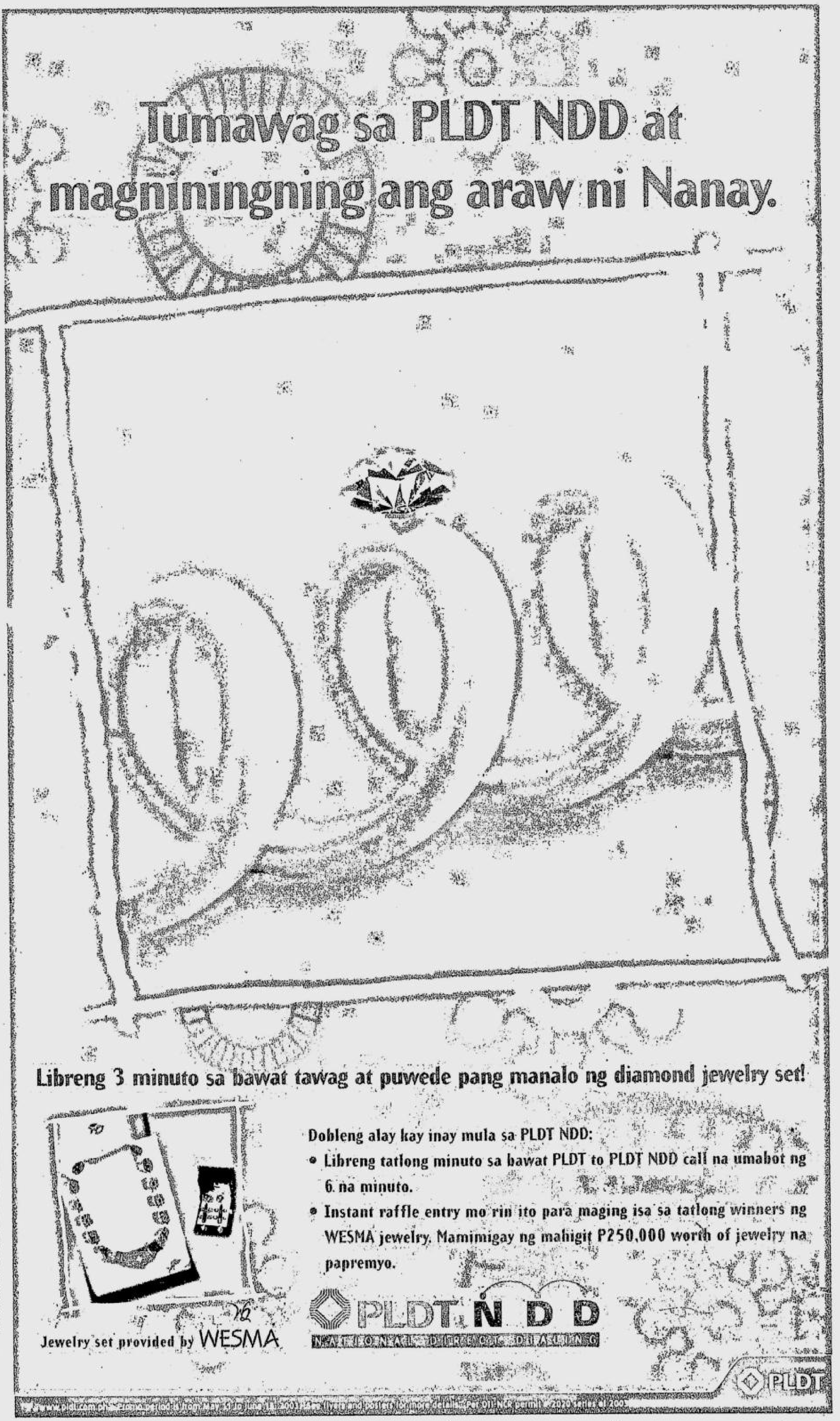
What the project will eventually offer is a cluster of autonomous cottages to house artists and writers in the near future. To quote a famous French actress: "You can recreate a true paradise in a big house for your friends, away from the static interference of big cities."

We all need a cocoon where we can nurture our creative growths.

When I made up my mind, all the elements just fell into place and assumed their truths in material reality.

ART/ D2

AN ANTIQUE Balinese statuary converted into a floor lamp by Keystone adds a touch of flourish to the otherwise staid interior of the reception hall. Console table is from Bohol, top are two African masks and a Dutch brass lamp.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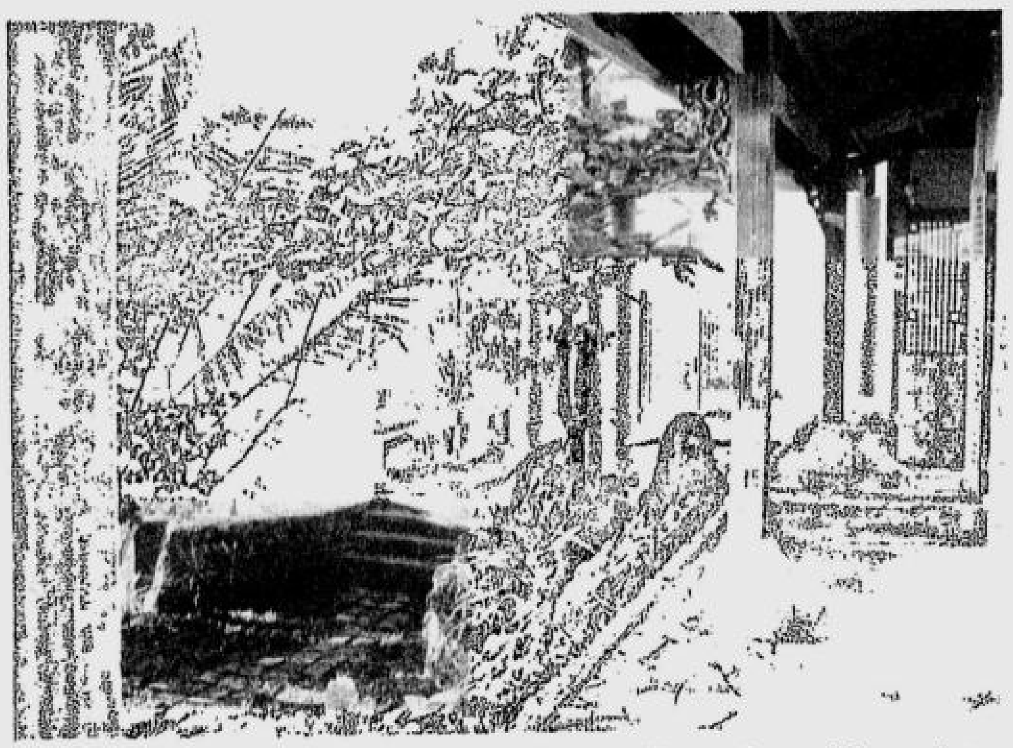

COVERED walkway outside the "Salone the Los Fortunatos" is paved expertly by ara-al stone pavers. The walkway is bordered by golden pebbles. The top of the walkway post is decorated with carved Thai spandrels.

AN OVERSIZED statue of an "apsara" made of volcanic stone is lording it over a pocket garden embellished by semi-precious stones from San Remigio river. In the background partly covered is an antique door from Madura, Indonesia.

Art as stew and symbiosis

From page D1

I have not always relied on the colored opinions of other people. Truth has a way of presenting itself in the reality of one man's honest convictions. One should never seek truth based on the judgments of other people. Truth has a way of existing in the hearts of men.

The truth of Villa Remedios lies in its symbolism. Realizing the idea of its structure is like putting into form our own collective sensibilities as artistic individuals.

Ours is a mixture of different cultures. The structure itself is a solid presentation of an individual's human sensibility. All the art objects inside are, at one time or another, realized representations of many evolved artistic sensibilities.

Kitchen art

Take, for example, the process that went through the making of the kitchen.

From the very start, the hearth of the house needed conceptualization and, boy, did it get its share of ideas and collaboration!

The challenge was to build something very functional and stylish to complement the already existing structure [of Durungkaan].

In scouting around for kitchen cabinets, I found the many choices mind-boggling! But I do believe in genius and a high sense of professionalism.

After talking to E.R. Reyes of V. Roque, I decided on the maple cabinetry. Reyes personally supervised the project from the very start, even offering his best project manager for the job, Willie Sanchez.

Breaking the monotony of too much wood in the cabinetry is easy. Some of the cabinets have leveled glass covers, spotlighted from the inside with halogen downlights. Even the pelmet lights are recessed, hidden but functional.

The travertine tiles with Venetian mosaic edging were provided by Centro Ceramica. The material was suggested by my good friend, Italian architect Gaetano Vitrano, because it offered a good contrast to the maple cabinetry.

High-end Italian

The beach-front location dictated our choices of kitchen appliances. We had to invest in the stainless steel of SMEG, a higher-end Italian brand.

Fortunately this brand is already being marketed in the Philippines by the group of Jefferson Sy and Albert So of Ranc Distributors. The company even sent its man, Jerbee, to supervise the installation of the units.

Water and ice can be served by the built-in dispenser of the refrigerator (but, first, a two-stage water-filtration system to purify the calcified water in the area had to be installed).

Adjacent to the refrigerator is a double-convection oven, a very practical option when one is preparing food for a big group of friends.

For the stainless-steel double-bowl sinks, I wanted nothing less than Kindred. Its surface treatment is jewel-like and faultless.

The very high ceiling—nine meters, to be exact—made the project daunting. There were also some givens such as the *molave* and *capiz* ventilation panels.

What was most impressive was the group sent by Freddie Young of Fullweld Company. The way the stainless-steel cladding of the ventilation system was set up was a dream job. Everything was flawless; even the welds were spotless.

Generoso Britania and Edwin Rañises Cagulada are the Michelangelos of modern spot welding.

Why do I choose to praise these people? It is because they are very good in what they do. One can always spend a lot of money, but if you don't have the right craftsman, no way can you realize a dream project.

Good taste, education and basic grounding in culture are the necessary ingredients in

ART/D6

THE THAI-INSPIRED dining pavilion was constructed by Ernie Caballa, and by Junjun and Nelson Alcansado, all expert artisans from Cebu. The steps are cladded by mahima stones and the garden are lushly planted with palms, bougainvilleas, bromeliads and *kalachuchis*.

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Garnish:
Slices of pineapple

Procedure:

Marinate spareribs in the remaining ingredients overnight. Bake spareribs with marinade at 350° F for about an hour. Serve garnished with pineapple slices.

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TLC PRICE
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Latundan Banana
TLC PRICE
P22 00 /kg.

Pomelo
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P95 00 /kg.

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Apple #80
TLC PRICE
P60 00 /kg.

CRIMSON
Seedless Grapes
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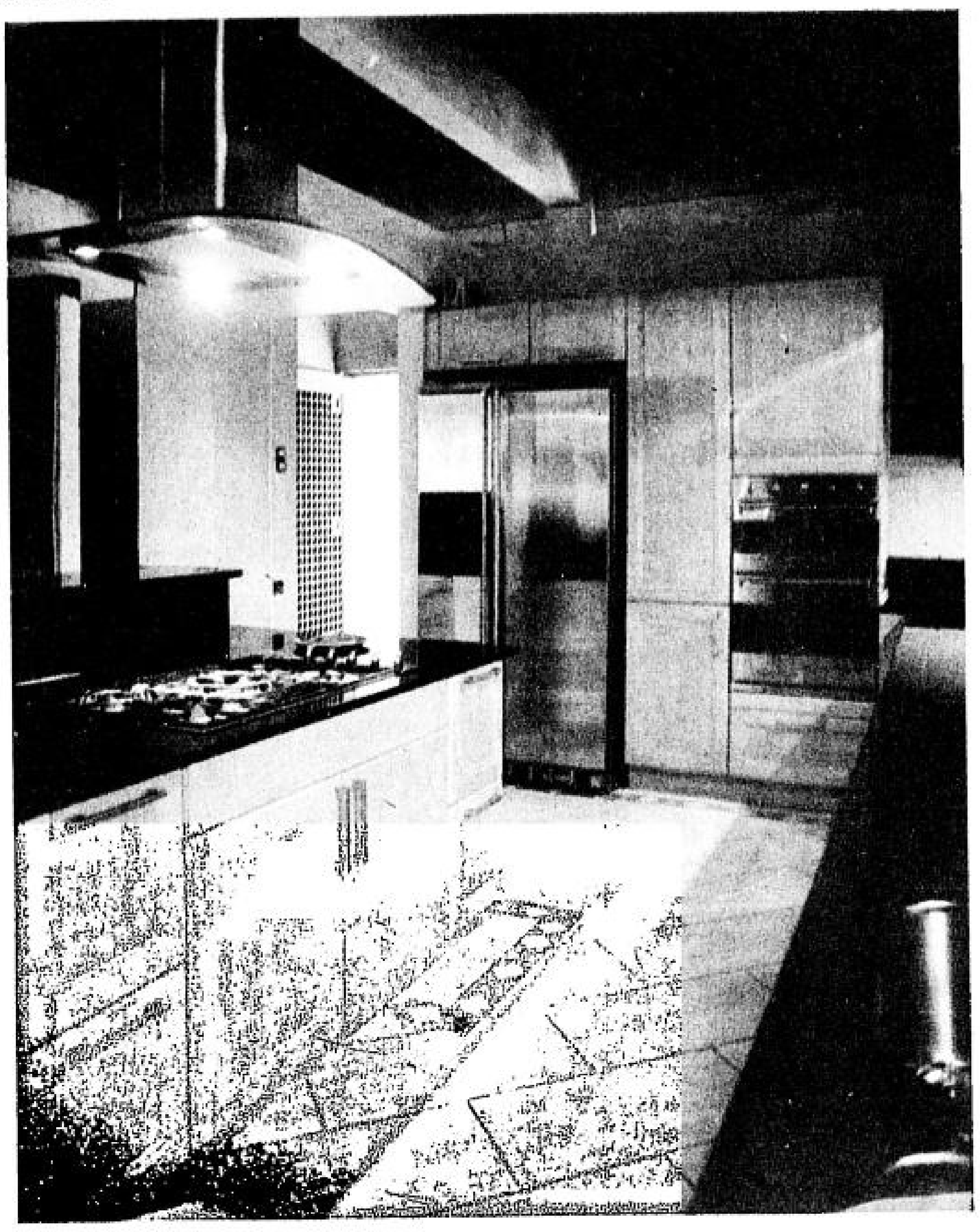


SIDE-BY-SIDE refrigerator in stainless steel and double oven are all by SMEG. Floor tiles are travertine tiles by Centro Ceramica.

NARRA, molave and *capiz* windows are specially designed and manufactured by J.G. San Juan from Cebu City. The molave stairwell posts topped with *kamagong* are specially made by Century Woods of Ed and Tess Napa. The floor is Italian travertine tiles bordered by Venetian mosaic tiles. Cabinet is a Dutch pantry cabinet.

Art as stew and symbiosis

From page D2

MAPLE kitchen cabinetry is a special collaboration with ER Reyes of V. Roque. Built-in double oven in stainless steel is by SMEG. Double bowl stainless steel sink is by Kindred and tap is by Meta Stone.

building a fine kitchen. Having a lot of money is no guarantee that the person will get what he wants.

The kitchen adopts a very theatrical setup with the stainless-steel and glass ventilation hood as the conductor. The dark-green granite countertop provides a perfect counterfoil to the subdued maple cabinetry. Even the stainless steel backsplash of the SMEG "opera" hob and oven reflect on their glistening surfaces whatever it is that the chef is cooking.

The whole kitchen exudes good feng shui. The stainless-steel appliances are highly reflective, as are the granite countertops. It is a common belief that whatever you prepare in the kitchen, if it can be doubled or tripled, the cook—and the owner of the house—can become very prosperous.

What makes the kitchen interesting is the very subtle orchestration of the square as a recurring pattern. The squares and the rectangles of the cabinets are echoed on the square grid pattern of the mahogany and *capis* ventilation panels.

The contrasting pattern of the Venetian mosaic edging of the travertine floor provides a touch of rusticity to make the kitchen more welcoming.

The system of the cabinetry is highly functional. End cabinets have magic corner hardware fixture that will enable the cook to access hard-to-reach corners.

There is a stainless-steel pantry hardware that opens, accordion-like, thereby making a layered offering . of kitchen merchandise. There is also a sliding double-dish rack for the china plates.

Preparing food takes center stage in this kitchen. What makes food preparation cozy is the center island that enables the chef to prepare the food while talking to guests eating on the bar ledge, which is an integral part of the island structure.

A primary consideration was analyzing my needs and building the kitchen around such an idea. After all, I would be the one living in the house and not other people.

Involving one's self with the project every step of the way is a necessary process toward building one's dream kitchen.

Sometimes people neglect the necessity of building good rapport with workers. They, too, are human and, like us, are bound to deliver very good results provided we motivate them.

It is all a question of orchestrated motivation. As in a concert, so it is in a kitchen.

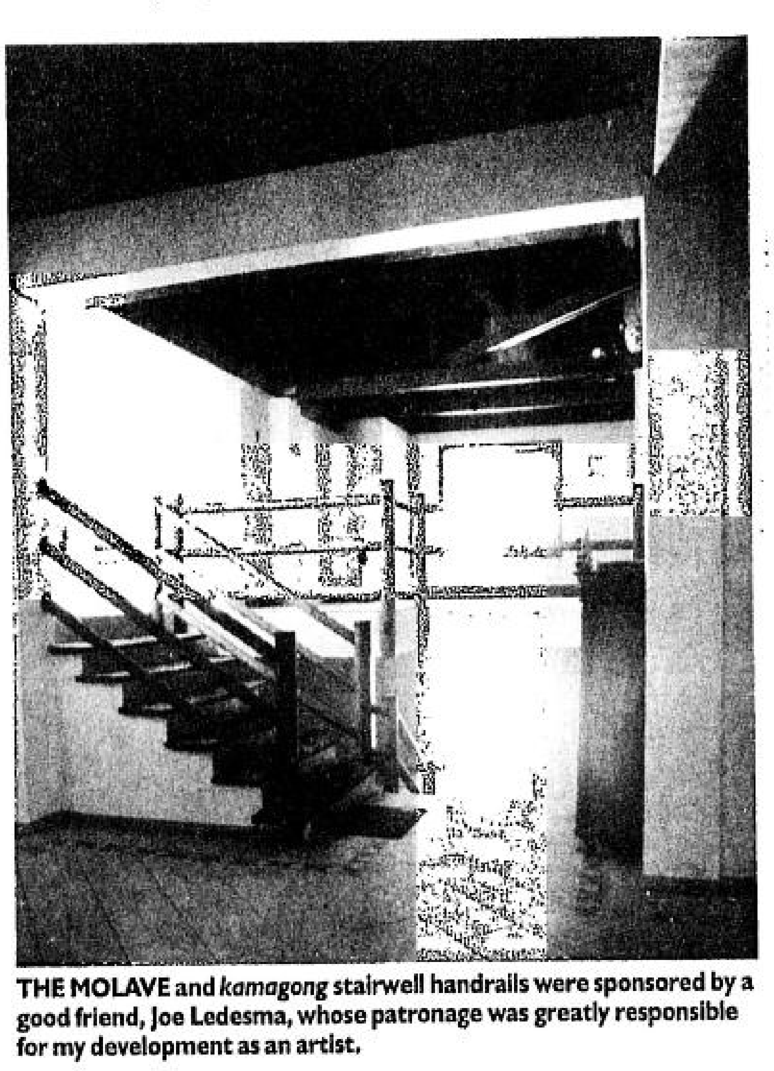
Artistic statement

It would be an understatement to say I want my house to be a museum. The house is rather a firm statement of my commitment as an evolved artistic being.

The presentation, however, does not stop with the house. The structure is a collaborative feast of different sensibilities: the architect with the artist, the gardener with the environment, the wind with the trees, the flowers with the butterflies, the books with the curious minds, the food with the savoring palate of real gourmets, the smell with the sensitive nose, and the beauty of things for the appreciative eyes of the real aesthete.

I cannot, under any circumstances, deform the truth that seeks to exist for its own sake. A house can only be an architectural statement if its very creation is a naturally evolved artistic adventure of the artist who knows his own truth.

TAKING center stage in the kitchen is an Elica "Iceberg" decorative island hood. Directly under the hood is a SMEG cooking hob on top of a tropical green granite island surface. Further on, one can see another SMEG 90 cm "Opera" oven with backsplash. Steel cladding for the ventilation ducting is by Full Weld of Freddie Young.

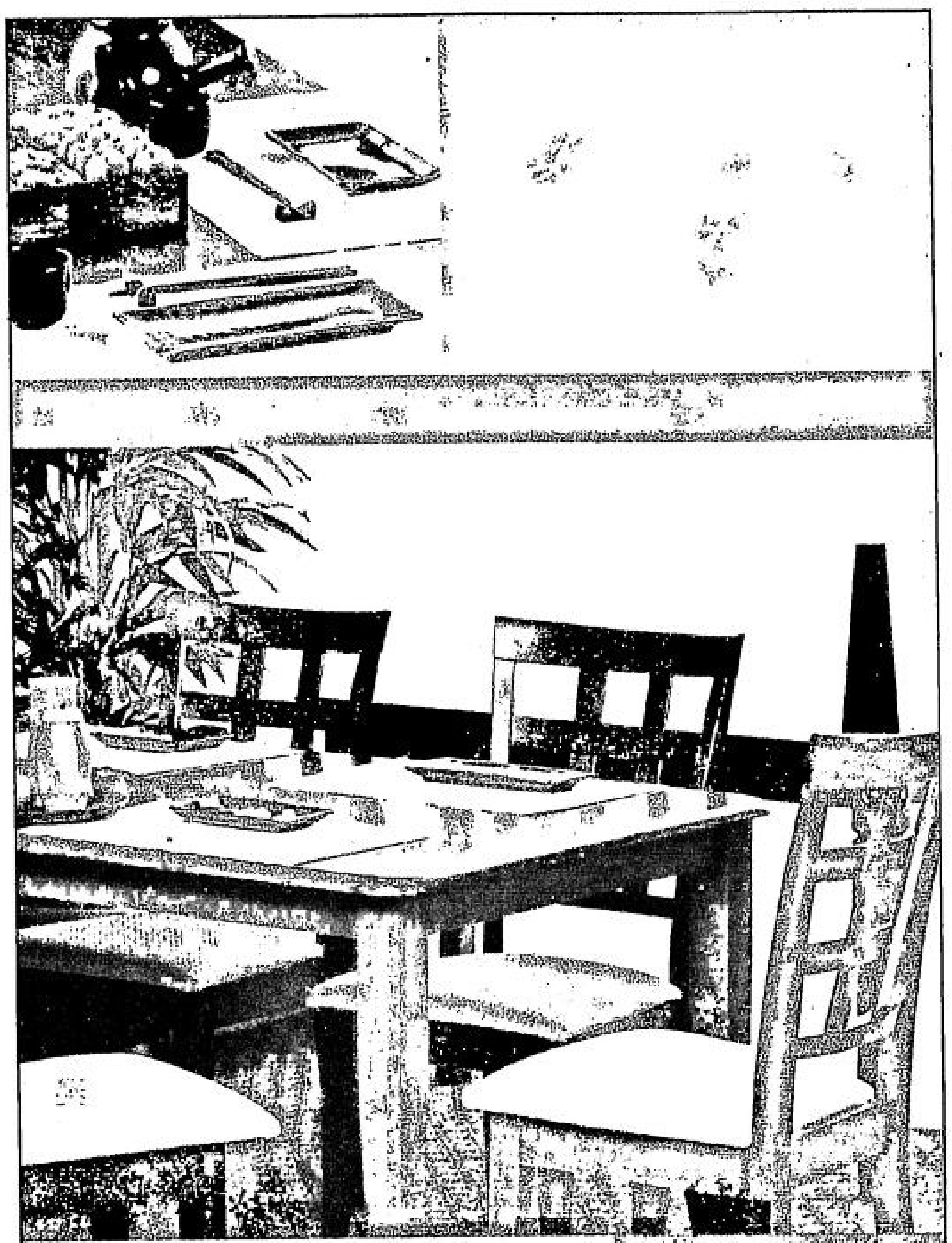


THE MOLAVE and *kamagong* stairwell handrails were sponsored by a good friend, Joe Ledesma, whose patronage was greatly responsible for my development as an artist.

Post grad course on pediatric health watch

THE DEPARTMENT of Pediatrics of Metropolitan Hospital, chaired by Dr. Nacy T. Lao, past president of Filipino-Chinese Medical Society, will hold its 16th post graduate course with the theme "Pediatric Health Watch." The two-day symposium will be held on June 5-6 at the 7/F, auditorium of Metropolitan Hospital, located at 1357 G. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Over-all chairperson of the course is Dr. Elena Cua-Lobo, with Dr. Juanita Lu as scientific committee chairperson. Call 2550401, local 340/331 or 0917-8440337.



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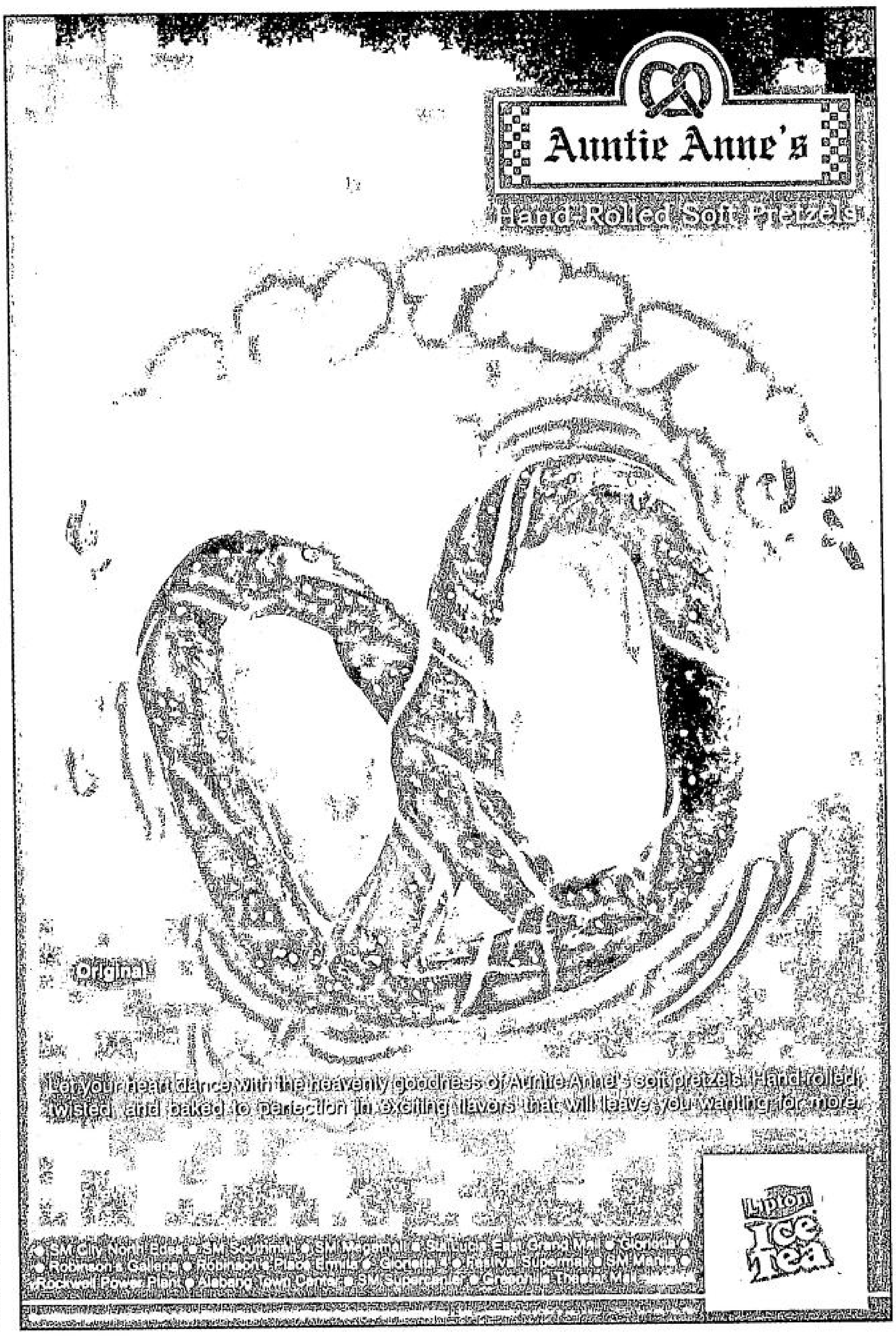
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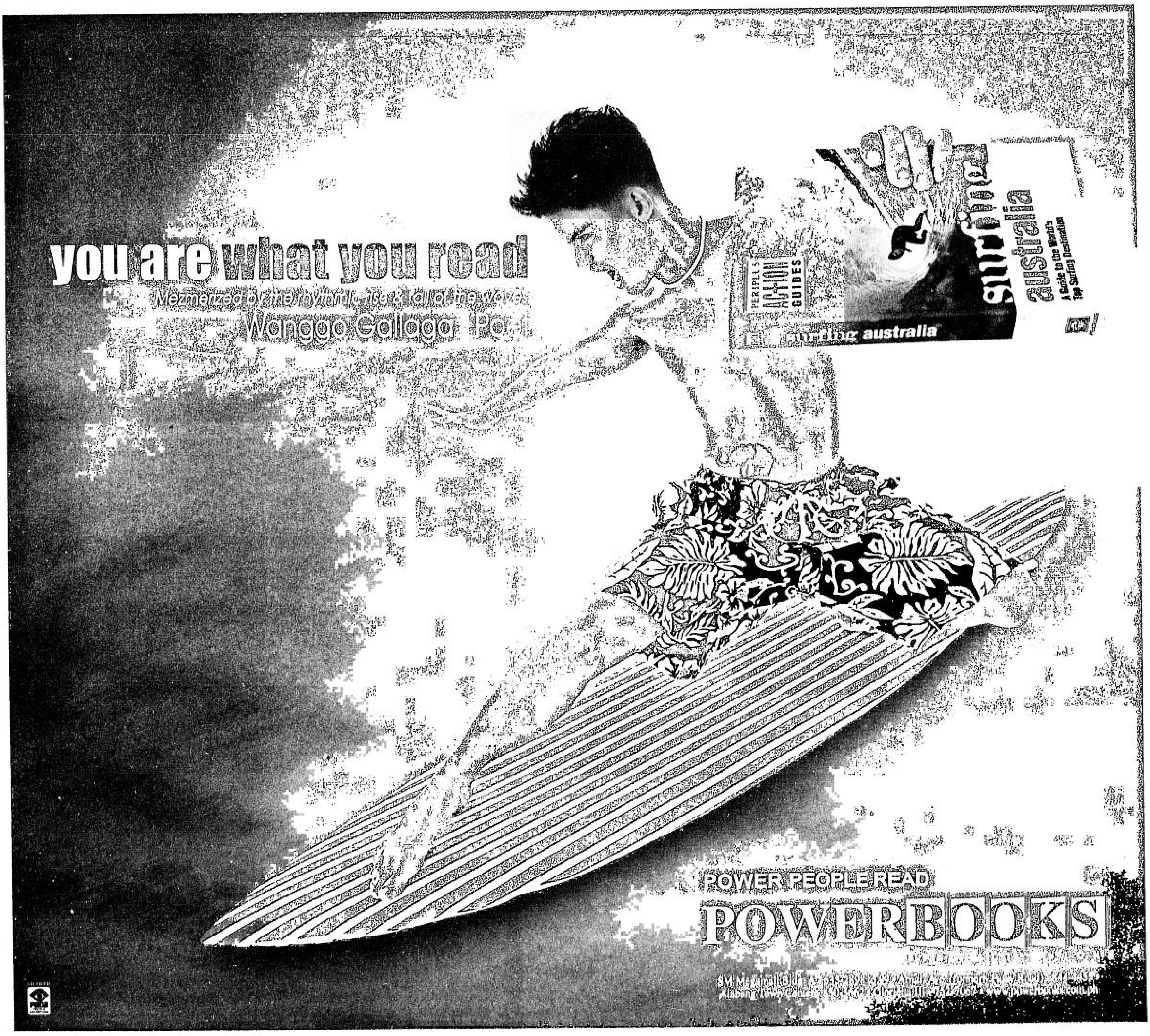
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Rosario Arcade	May 23- 24
Corso Gueriani	May 23- 24, 30-31, June 6-7
Xcite	May 23- 24, 30-31, June 6-7
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Katipunan residents denounce tree-cutting plan

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WE were about to announce this week the good news that a mini forest was set to grow on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, but for an item in this paper last Sunday headlined "Tree-less Katipunan Ave. planned."

Here we were, about to convey the exciting news that people along Katipunan would soon enjoy fresh air from a forest within their own turf, only to get literally shot down by the alarming news from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Although we live in Parañaque City, I have always found the greening project on Katipunan interesting. It is an example of how a community can help itself by interacting with government agencies.

It seems, however, that this is not quite so. Some government agencies have their own definition of what is environmentally sound.

The plan to cut down trees on a road where tree-planting is a continuing effort among residents and stakeholders is generating discordant notes.

Antithesis

Annie S. Cruz, who has been religiously sending progress reports on the Katipunan greening movement, is dismayed at the news. It is the antithesis of everything her group has been doing all these years, she points out.

"A tree-less Katipunan is a strong statement that can pierce anyone who has a green heart," she says. "As a prime mover of the Greening of Katipunan, I am strongly against the MMDA's plan to make Katipunan a mere

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4) June 14, 2003 - LEARN SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000. Banana Cake, Apple Almond Cake, Chocolate Walnut Cookies, Carrot Cake, All Wheat Bread & Raisin Bread. *July 19, 2003*

5) June 16, 17, 18, 19 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P4,000 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling 2) Rose, Catteya, Cymbidium 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies. 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes. - (*Each set are lessons covered for one day.*)

6) June 11, 2003 / 8am - 5pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS, RIBBONS & QUILTING - P3,000. *Next schedule: July 16, 2003*

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8) June 16,17, 18, 19, 2003 / 8 am - 5 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P10,500 (including ingredients). 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies. *July 21, 22, 23, 24, 2003*

9) June 17, 18, 19, 20, 2003 / 8 am - 5 pm COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4 Day Course - P10,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in cold porcelain. *July 22, 23, 24, 25, 2003*

10) June 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2003 - SPECIAL BAKING - P11,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration. *July 28, 29, 30, 31, Aug. 1*

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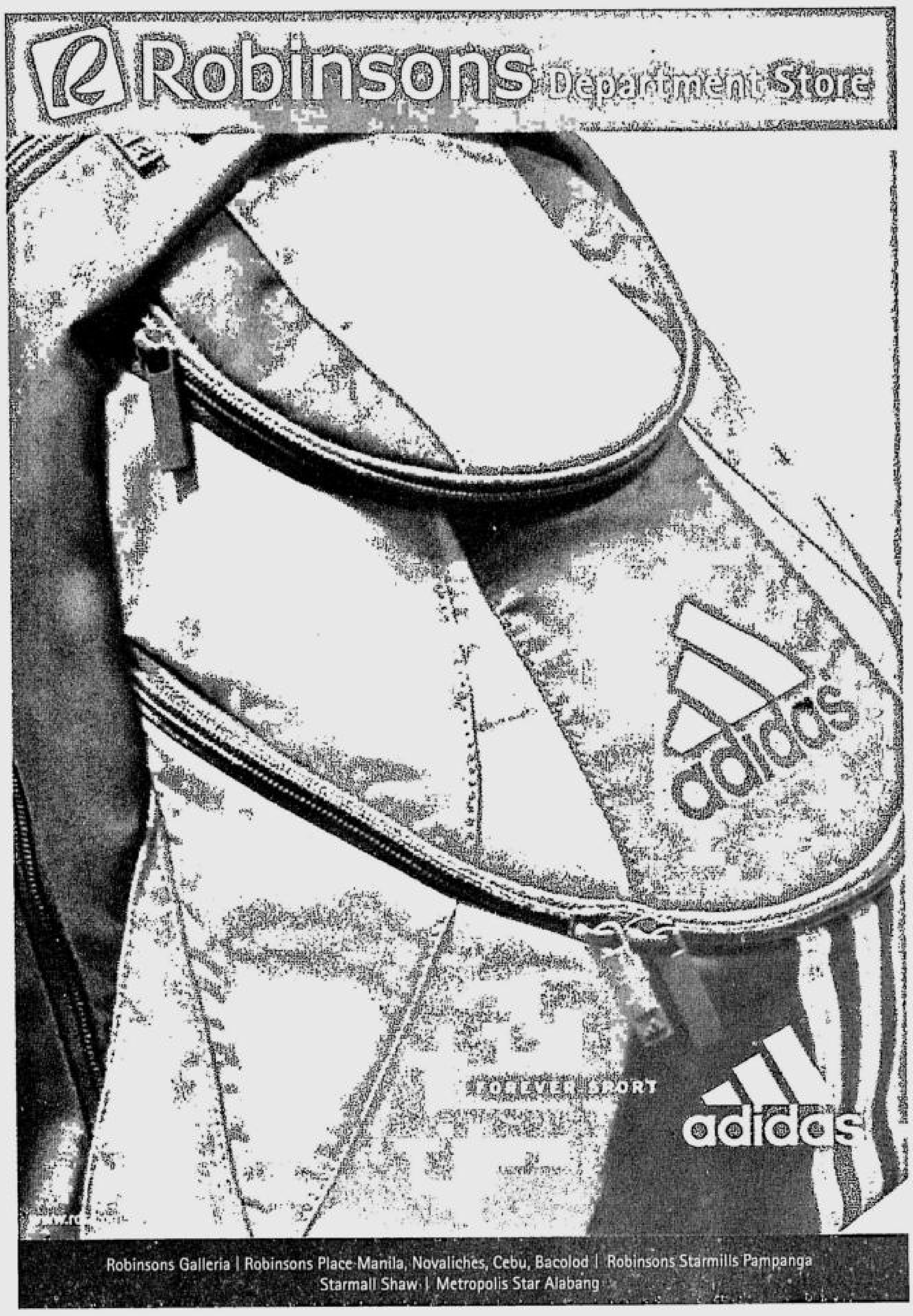

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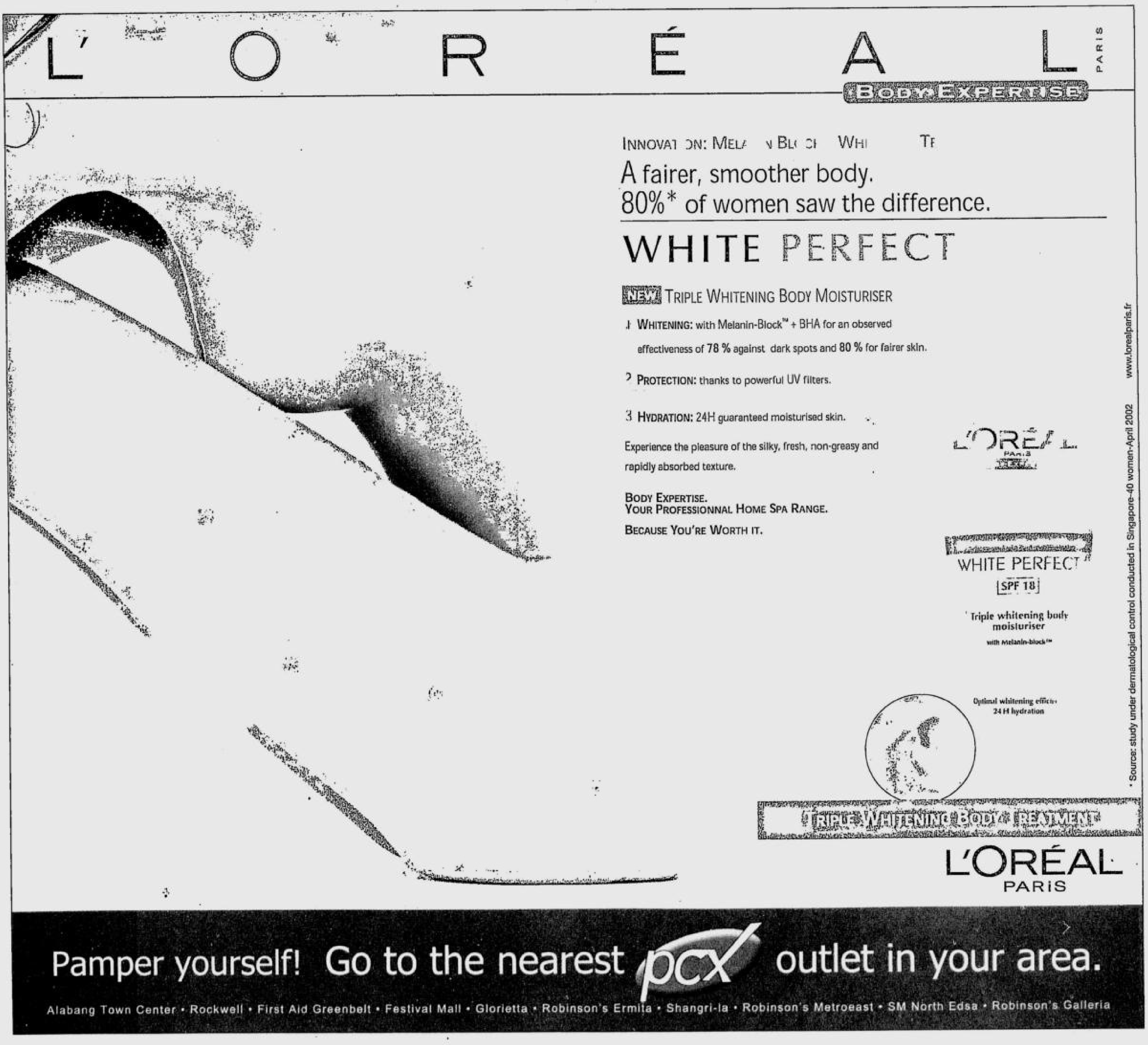

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Dutiful daughter is hesitant to go on US trip

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

You answered the questions of two ladies wanting to apply for a US visa. My problem is different: whether to use mine. My visa is good for three more years, but my daughter's visa will expire two months from now, and she has not used it yet.

We have the means to travel, and my husband even insists we go to the United States for at least two weeks, to be with my two sisters who work in California. My two sisters who are here have already given me a list of things to buy for them.

The problem is that our 80-year-old mother is down with osteoporosis and diabetes. Now she has flu and had to be hospitalized again. She has a *yaya* who really takes care of her especially now that she has to use a wheelchair.

Is it all right for us to leave, when my mother is ill? In her condition she might "go" anytime. I had an aunt who died at 70.

I am excited to travel again, and since my daughter's visa will soon expire, we really want to go, but my conscience bothers me. Should we leave now, while my mother is in the hospital?

PATRICIA

First, thank the Lord for all your blessings. You have a happy family, you are financially stable, your husband and your sisters are eager for you to go on this trip.

You are also a caring and loving daughter, and have to be admired for thinking of your mother. Just remind your husband and sisters to call a priest when her condition turns serious and it looks like she is being called to the Great Beyond. Or to call a pastor if you belong to a different religion.

And since your daughter's visa will soon expire, and applying for a renewal will take time and will cost money that you could use for shopping (there's also the chance that her next application will be denied), weigh the facts. Your husband wants you to go, your sisters expect *pasalubong*. As for your mother, your sisters will be here with her, and she has a *yaya*.

So, happy trip. What you should concentrate on is your physical well-being. As I write this, typhoon Chedeng is in the Philippines, and you can catch cold and develop a fever when you are caught in the rain. Leave as soon as the weather is fine.

By the way, in the plane, the cold temperature can make you sneeze. One way to prevent this is to pinch your nose with your thumb and forefinger. This may not be perfect but it often works. If you sneeze, your co-passengers might worry, with the current concern about SARS. You might even be asked to get off the plane if it has not yet taken off.

Remember, too, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Ask your doctor for vitamins and other food supplements to keep you and your daughter in top shape. Good luck.

Howling dog

When I read that the St. Benedict medal can exorcise evil spirits, I went at once to the bookstore of San Beda College to buy some and had them blessed by a kind priest there. Now, my son no longer hears voices at night in his bedroom in our attic.

Do you believe in superstitions? What bothers me now is that our dog, Bachuy, which is our 24-hour security guard, not only barks when someone is at the gate. Often at midnight or at 3 a.m., I am awakened by his howling. It sleeps in our porch at night, but in the daytime it can kick the screen door open and go inside anytime.

A friend told me that when a dog barked, it saw humans, but when it howled, it saw spirits. Do you agree with this?

Also, I was the one who bought Bachuy from a pet shop. I take it for a walk every day, but it runs and wags its tail and looks so happy when my son comes home from school. When my daughter arrives, it opens its eyes, then goes back to sleep ignoring her.

Does a dog choose friends, and does it really see spirits?

ROBERT

What I'm sure of is that a dog chooses whom to love most among family members. So even if you were the one who paid for him, it could be your son he is drawn to more. Is your dog a basset hound? I had one years ago. At anytime of the day, morning or afternoon, it would bark and then howl, as if saying something. I was told that the basset hound was a breed that loved to bark and howl as a habit.

As for howling at night, it could be true. I hope your son's school library has the book "The Hidden Powers of Animals," which is in the Readers' Digest list of available books. Don't be bothered by your dog's howling at night. Maybe you can put cotton in your ears so you cannot hear his howling.

May I remind you to make sure a veterinarian checks your dog regularly and he is properly vaccinated and supplied with other veterinary pharmaceuticals. Also, never feed your dog with chicken bones.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263

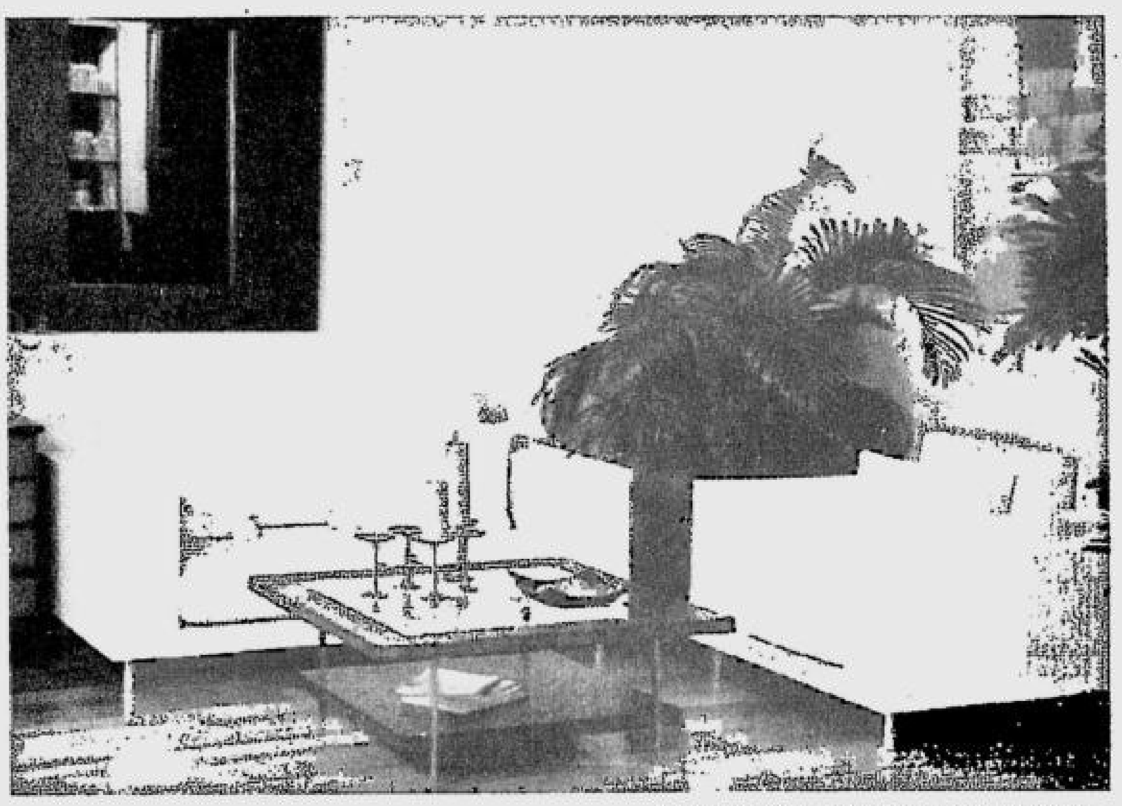
Furniture maker presents signature designs

YOUNG furniture designer Clayton Tugonon showcases his works at Borders, Manila's premier lifestyle store and home to export-quality, Philippine-made furniture.

Tugonon and his wife Jojie established the furniture company called Classical Geometry. He unveiled his first signature designs at the Cebu Furniture Show in 1995.

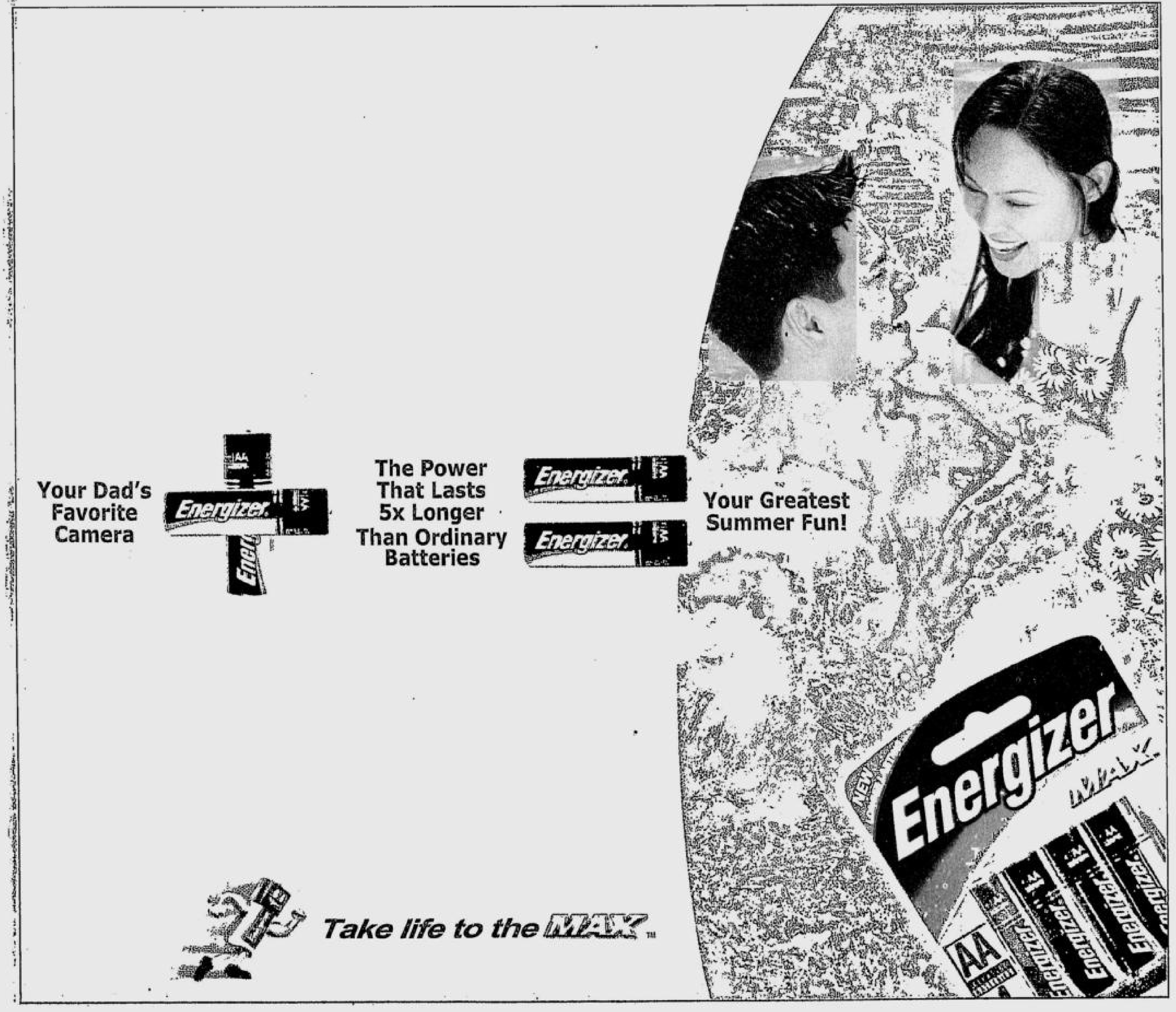
The designer received a special citation for innovative use of material in the Cebu X 2002 Furniture Show. Classical Geometry was cited for its unique display of a bedroom suite with simulated rain pouring down the windows at the recent Cebu show.

Borders is on the ground floor of G.E. Philippines Building, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati.



THE YEVA living room set blends well with green walls featuring a woven plastic love seat and lounge chair done in white and a Cuba coffee table and mirror both made of laminated wood in "termite" finish.

CRISSCROSS laminated coconut dining table for six with upholstered Enya chairs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Take life to the MAX

Hotel offers new package

MANILA Galleria Suites (MGS) has launched its latest party and incentive packages, which include the Penthouse Party Package, "Sunday Big Event" promotion and "RSVP" Plus.

Penthouse Party Package offers a package rate of P16,000, which includes an open bar, cocktail food and canapés plus a chance to stay at the Penthouse.

Aside from offering great packages to customers and patrons, MGS also provide incentives to party organizers who offer the hotel's banquet facilities.

"Sunday's Big Event" and "RSVP Plus" were designed to give incentives to organizers.

Katipunan residents denounce tree-cutting plan

From page E1

stretch of cement. These trees are owned by community donors who believe that trees are vital to man's physiological and psychological well-being.

"Even the garden soil was donated, because planting trees was never part of the government's infrastructure development," Cruz continues. "The Greening of Katipunan is in line with DENR's [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] Master Plan for Forestry Development in urban areas. We have the right to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Taking out this landscape from Katipunan is, in effect, depriving us of our right to clean air."

Lending her voice to the clamor against MMDA's plan to cut down the trees on Katipunan's islands is Angelina P. Galang of Miriam College's Environmental Studies Institute, one of the active members of the greening group. She ticks off the reasons for her opposition:

1. The plan will not improve the traffic situation because there are bottlenecks that are not due to road width. The bottlenecks are the fronts of Ateneo gates, especially Gate 3 and the point where C. P. Garcia and Katipunan meet. Proper timing of street lights, enforcing driver discipline and other strategies should be studied.

2. The trees absorb pollution and thus protect our health. They provide shade and relief from the heat. The pollution in Metro Manila is among the worst in the world. We need all the help we can get.

3. Trees guide rain to their roots to replenish groundwater and aquifers. With so much water being pumped out through deep and artesian wells, our ground is at risk of subsidence, if it has not yet subsided like in Bangkok. It is not only in the parks that groundwater has to be replenished. We need it everywhere.

4. The world's beautiful cities are beautiful because of tree-lined boulevards. If the government is serious in its efforts to attract tourists, tree-planting should be a major component of its development plans, not more concrete jungles.

5. Katipunan is one of the loveliest avenues in Metro Manila because the communities and schools around have made greening it their project. Now that we are enjoying the fruits of our cooperative efforts, the MMDA wants to unilaterally remove the trees just like that?

6. Has MMDA cleared this activity with DENR? If not, it might be breaking the law.

7. While motorists want efficiency and speed, the quality of life, even in the metropolis, should include beauty and grace. Besides, the environmental protection provided by the trees of Katipunan far outweigh the improvement in traffic, if any, that destroying the trees and the islands will bring about.

Galang stresses her opposition with a concluding statement: "Please, help us stop the MMDA from its mad objective of cutting down 750,000 trees in Metro Manila [as announced, she says, by the MMDA chair himself during a convention of the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines]."

'Bright idea'

Another party greatly concerned about this new MMDA "bright idea" is Ester V. Perez de Tagle, founder and past president of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap). Her group has been in the forefront of car emission tests and other clean air crusades.

"A parallel situation to this is that of Arroceros Park," she says.

It is apparent, she adds, that our officials are wanting in environmental education. We tend to agree. Perhaps environmental IQ tests should be required of appointees to such sensitive positions as traffic-operations director, or even city and town mayors and administrators.

Our environmental problems are mounting. Aside from the perennial ones of illegal logging, illegal fishing and garbage disposal, there are also the problems of SARS and genetically engineered Bt corn, which will be sold to the public despite a lack of safety and health assurances from the agencies concerned.

Now we have tree-cutting czars to contend with. If we're afraid of SARS and of uncertified genetically engineered food, we should be afraid as well of the cutting down of our beautiful trees.

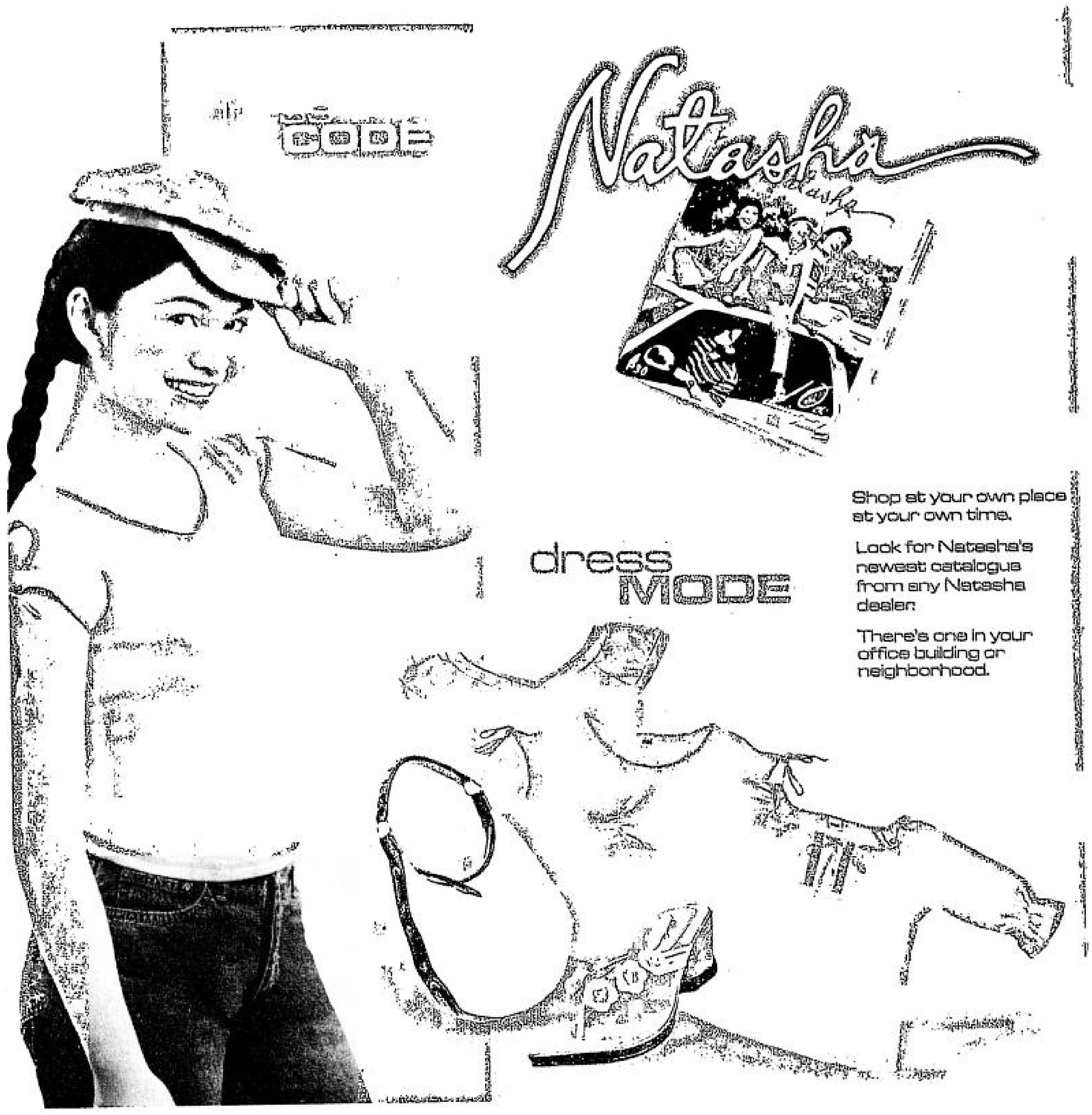
E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

> While the world's best cities take pride in their tree-lined boulevards, why are we cutting down our trees?

Aklanons hold 26th gala dinner-dance

THE ARCHBISHOP Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation Inc. will hold its 26th annual "Binayle" or benefit gala dinner dance on May 31, 7 p.m. at Century Park Hotel, Vito Cruz Street, Manila.

Call Janet at 718-1188, Ellie, 842-8606 or Bernard, 530-8474.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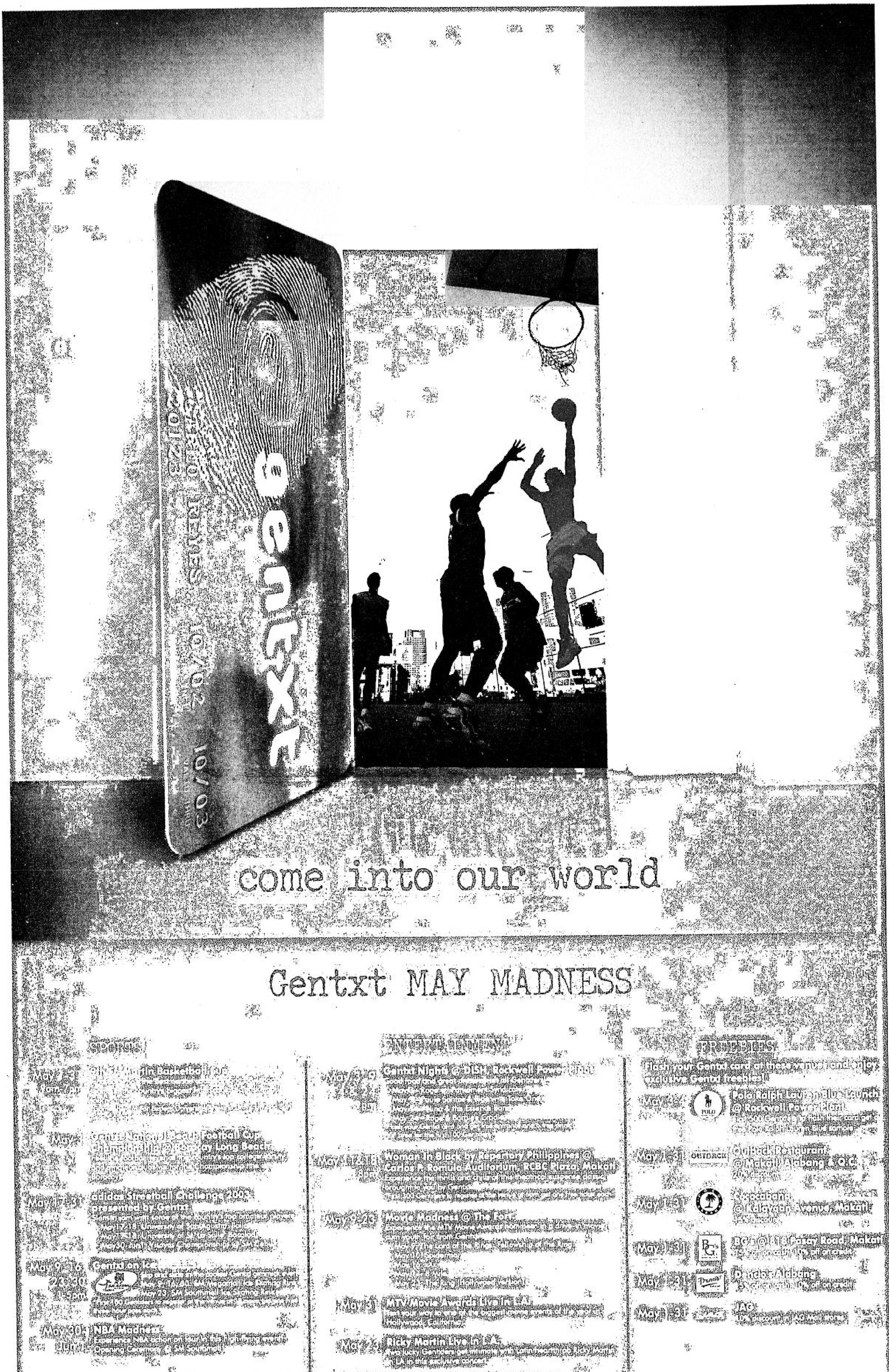

Gentxt MAY MADNESS

SPORTS

May [illegible] [illegible] Basketball Cup
[illegible]

May [illegible] Gentxt National Beach Football Cup Championship @ Boracay Long Beach
[illegible]

May 1-31 adidas Streetball Challenge 2003 presented by Gentxt
[illegible]

May 9-16, 23-30 Gentxt on Ice
[illegible]

May 30-June NBA Madness
[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

May 3, 9 Gentxt Night @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant
[illegible]

May 1, 2 & 18 Woman in Black by Repertory Philippines @ Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati
[illegible]

May 9-23 Movie Madness @ The Fort
[illegible]

May 31 MTV Movie Awards Live in L.A.
[illegible]

May 23 Ricky Martin Live in L.A.
[illegible]

May 29 Gentxt Single Storm @ the Basement
[illegible]

FREEBIES

Flash your Gentxt card at these venues and enjoy exclusive Gentxt freebies!

May 24 Polo Ralph Lauren Blue Launch @ Rockwell Power Plant
[illegible]

May 1-31 OutBack Restaurant @ Makati, Alabang & Q.C.
[illegible]

May 1-31 Copacabana @ Kalayaan Avenue, Makati
[illegible]

May 1-31 BG's @ 818 Pasay Road, Makati
[illegible]

May 1-31 Dencio's Alabang
[illegible]

May 1-31 JAO
[illegible]

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LIFESTYLE

Fashion advice from Apples Aberin-Sadhwani /F4

A MASTER'S CREATION. Ramon Valera designed this modernized kimono top, worn with Banana Republic white jeans.
PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO MAGAZINE

MARGARITA FORÉS

The chef as fashion paragon

She has changed the way Filipinos view Italian food while remaining a style barometer

By Anton San Diego

STYLE EYES

MARGARITA Forés is credited for changing the way Filipinos view Italian food (think: pizza, pasta).

Since she opened Cibo in 1998, she really has transformed our palates. She has come up with new ways and ideas to push our taste buds to the limit. With her newest baby, Pepato, she has further secured her position as one of the top chefs/restaurateurs in the country.

To arrive at this point in her life is no mean feat. She has worked really hard at it, and is respected and admired for her efforts.

As for her style, Margarita has an innovative sense of flair that's all her own. Whether in a vintage gown, in an Inno Sotto or her day uniform of white slacks, black or beige top and Tod's, she simply looks great.

Margarita's style is also more than that. Her pedigree, personal taste (her restaurants exude so much style) and poise set her a notch above other women who may have the advantage of height or may look better.

In the Philippine Tatler's September 2002 issue, she was voted as one of Asia's most stylish women. In the shoot, she wore a vintage Halston, worn backward—the same way her mother, legendary style icon Baby Forés, wore it. Her manner of dressing is timeless, effortless and elegant. She is often seen wearing styles long before they become fashionable.

A class all her own, Margarita is mother, daughter, businesswoman, chef, restaurateur, caterer and style icon. Indeed she wears many

THE CHEF/ F2

Real People. True Stories.

"My skin used to be so dry, you could draw a line across it. But after Imedeen, there's no more dryness, just compliments!"

Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan,
41, Dermatologist &
Clinic owner, Dermgem .

As someone whose job is to make others look good, Dr. Daisy knows she has to look good herself. "Patients come to me to look younger. I myself should be the best proof that you don't have to look your age."

With Imedeen, Dr. Daisy has achieved just that. As skin retains its essential moisture, dryness is reduced; in its place you may notice skin more evenly toned, softer and more elastic. "I get a lot of compliments -- people say I look good for my age."

Imedeen is the skin care tablet that helps nourish and revitalize the inner layer of the skin where ageing begins.

"I always tell my patients, 'To look beautiful, one must feel beautiful inside.' Seeing how young I look gives my spirit a different kind of lift. Imedeen does wonders not just for outer beauty, but inner beauty as well. And that's something no facelift can give you."

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

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The Skin Care Tablet

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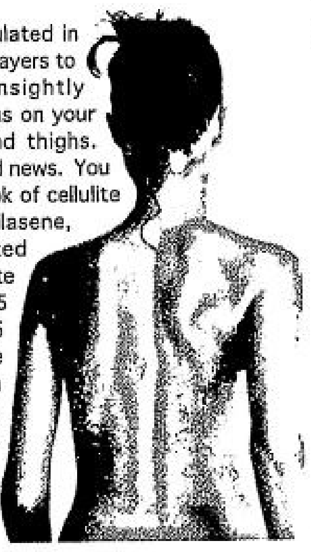
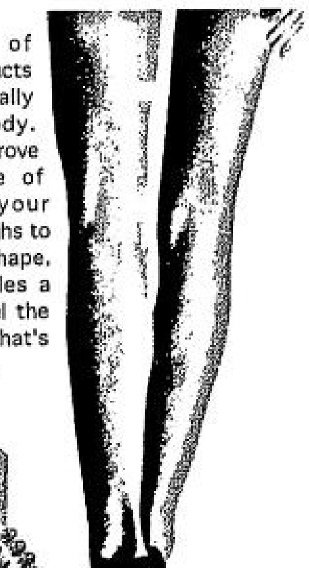
For more stories of real women:
www.imedeen.com



Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.

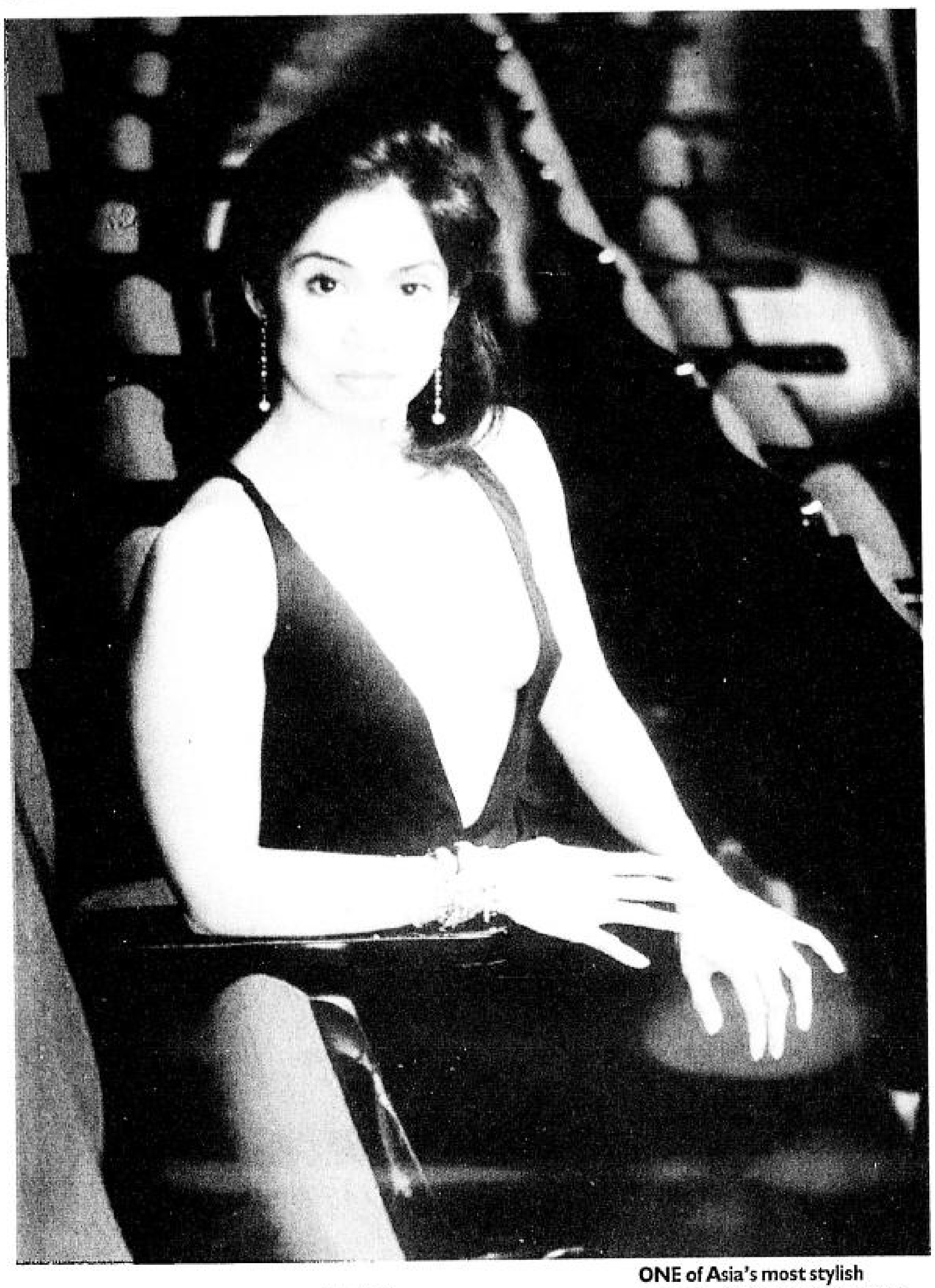
The naked truth!



Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 6885

NINE WEST

Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, Festival SuperMall, The Power Plant, Ayala Center Cebu, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Cubao and Rustan's Harrison Plaza



ONE of Asia's most stylish women—in vintage Halston, as photographed by Jun de Leon
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER

NATURE INSPIRED. Dress is vintage Jean Patou by Angelo Tarlazzi

STYLISH BLACK. Wearing Balenciaga, as photographed by Jun de Leon
PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO MAGAZINE

The chef as fashion paragon

Margarita Forés dresses elegantly but effortlessly, often in a design ahead of its time

INNO'S MUSE. Margarita wears a bias-cut long gown in crepe fabric by Inno Sotto.

From page F1

hats and wears them all with matching style to boot!

This is Margarita Fores' style.

Define style.

Style is being comfortable enough with one's self and one's choices to radiate a very clear presence.

Describe your personal style.

Timeless and classic... definitely ultra-comfortable these days.

Do you think you are stylish?

Don't think of it too much.

If you were to make a best-dressed list who would be on it?

My mom (legendary style icon Baby Forés) and Lizzie Zobel.

Who do you think is a stylish man?

My dad in his very crisp barongs.

Who are your favorite designers?

Inno Sotto, Tom Ford, Narciso Rodriguez, Nicholas Ghuesquiere, the designers at Prada and, still, Valentino.

If you can have a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

I wouldn't really have a makeover.

What is your biggest extravagance?

My crisp white sheets and travel.

What do you wear at work?

A cool, white shirt, slacks and soft loafers.

How has your mother influenced your style of dressing?

Her constant advice that "Less is more" and "Wear only what suits you and what fits right" has stuck. Wish I could have saved more of her old things.

A woman dresses to...?

Feel good about herself

Beauty secret or regimen?

I enjoy what I do, and am now trying to drink more water. Also, moisturize!

If you could have access to anyone's wardrobe, whose would it be?

My mom's wardrobe in the '60s; visions of Audrey Hepburn in "Two for the Road."

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

Gaining weight so my clothes didn't fall well.

What is on your wish-list right now?

A food and architectural trip to Cuba, a table at El Bulli, Lardo Pizza at Mario Batali's Otto, a Peter Luger burger and a small waistline.

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

Definitely the '50s and '60s

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

AT THE NATIONAL Museum, wearing a denim blouse with ruffled sleeves and skirt by Prada.

CHIC CHART

Toiletries

Shampoo/Conditioner: Kadus and Nioxin/an aloe vera rub or a paste of ground *gumamela* leaves for new hair growth
Toothpaste: Pasta del Capitano
Soap: Sapone alla Menta by Farmacia Sta. Maria Novella, Mangosteen or Tomato Soap from Fresh
Scent and perfume: I love the scent of rosala and white truffles. For perfume—Eau de Courreges, Christian Tortu; my son Amadito's Roger Gallet

Makeup

Lipstick: Lobello sunscreen for lips, Natural tones from Shu Uemura and MAC Lacquer
Moisturizer: For day—Idralia by Farmacia Sta Maria Novella and Evian Brumisatuer
For night: Sisleya anti-aging cream and La Mer eye balm
Blush: Molton Brown
Foundation: Mat Velvet by Makeup Forever, when I need to put it on (thanks, Patrick!)
Eye shadow/mascara: Don't wear any Maybelline Great Lash
Sunscreen: The sun-tanning line of Sta. Maria Novella

Clothes

Jeans: No blue ones, only black or white Daryl K's or Banana Republic slacks
Top: Monogrammed Ascot Chang's, YSL, Prada and Gucci
T-shirt: Amadito's well-worn and outgrown white Gap tees, size 12
Pajamas: All-white cottons
Lingerie: La Perla and Gap

Accessory

Handbag: Roomy Hogan's for work
Watch: Tiny ones for my small wrists (my mini steel/gold Bulgari Tubogas and the mini Tank Elongee)
Shoes: Soft loafers from Helene Arpels, Belgian shoes and Tod's. For classic high-heeled pumps, Christian Loubotin
Sneakers: White Superga's, Adidas martial arts and velcroed Pumas

Hi-tech

Mobile Phone: Nokia Communicator
Computer: Toshiba Satellite Pro 4300 series laptop
TV: An old Sony, don't know the model

Others

Restaurants: Aside from Cibo, Café Bola and Pepato, Shang Palace for dimsum and not-on-the-menu home-style specials, the original Mr. Poon for *pancit* Canton and fried shrimps, Burger King for freshly grilled Whoppers, Jerusalem on M.H. del Pilar for Middle Eastern, Tacqueria Chilanga for soft tacos, Bombay canteen for *dahl pakora* and curries, many at Little Tokyo (near Makati Cinema Square) for unique Japanese, Shinjuku for cold *ramen*, Sachi at Araneta Coliseum for Wag-yu Sukiyaki...
Magazines: New York, Time Out, Food Arts, Saveur, T&L, Condé Nast Traveller, Wallpaper, Vogue Entertaining &Travel
Bottled water: San Pellegrino; no preference for bottled mineral water; I like Cubao tap water.
Florist: My girls Karren, Razel and Grace, and equally inspiring Tita Toni Parsons of 517 and the innovative and effervescent Antonio Garcia of Mabolo
Soda: Diet Sarsi and diet ginger ale
Gym: Fitness International for resistance training, Core Fitness for Pilates, Bela Lipat for yoga
Favorite charity: Missionary Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa), Ina-Anak Foundation in Pasay

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Party draws people who could be something somewhere next elections

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

WALKING into **Paul Cabral**'s celebration of his natal day and 10th anniversary as fashion designer was like entering a movie set. The Mediterranean fusion restaurant called Katre in Quezon City was converted into a studio with ceiling drapes and lights. A video camera crew filmed grand entrances.

Having been a barong designer for an ex-President and couturier for private clients and "only top movie stars" gives Paul affinity with and easy access to people in the entertainment business. Hunk **Diether Ocampo** is even a neighbor.

Robin Padilla arrived with **Judy Ann Santos. Lorna Tolentino**, lovely sans makeup, was with husband **Rudy Fernandez.** A very slim **Carmina Villaroel** walked in with bosom buddy, QC Councilor **Aiko Melendez.**

Everyone enjoyed the delicious tenderloin steak swimming in sauce and downed with Chardonnay. The camera rolled again for the arrival of **Jinggoy Estrada** and wife **Prescy**. It was real and reel, sometimes almost surreal.

I had two very popular movie writers sharing my table, the quiet **Ricky Lo** and the loquacious **Lolit Solis.**

Gina de Venecia was also there. She is a denizen of the movie industry, being co-owner of Sampaguita Pictures and host of her own television series. She has also become a political figure as well as wife of the Speaker of the House.

Politics and show business are obviously present and future partners. Half of the movie stars in the room could become town councilor, city mayor, congressman or an even higher official in the not so distant future. In fact, we talked politics and other matters with talent manager **Dolor Guevarra** and husband **Boots Plata**, veteran director of 50-plus movies, including **Fernando Poe Jr.** box office hits. FPJ, of course, might run for president in 2004.

That thought brought us back to reality. Soon conversations with **Keren Pascual, Randy Ortiz, DJ Jon Herrera** and model **Alvin de Gamo** turned to fashion and famous things. But as soon as Robin stood up to leave, we scampered to take that requisite souvenir picture with the former but not original bad boy of Philippine movies and, of course, with the celebrator.

Now, that's a print!

PAUL Cabral (right) with Lolit Solis, Gina de Venecia and Boots Plata

RANDY Ortiz and Judy Ann Santos

AIKO Melendez and Carmina Villaroel

LORNA Tolentino and Maricel Laxa Pangilinan

GELO Serrano and Rowell Santiago

DENNIS Roldan, Tirso Cruz, Ricky Davao and Jinggoy Estrada

CARLO Maceda, Diether Ocampo and DJ Durano

RUDY Fernandez

ROBIN Padilla

The big plus to my image is Nestlé Calcium Plus. It's rich in calcium to keep my bones strong, plus fiber to help me absorb more nutrients. I drink it everyday so I have more vitality for an eventful life!

Macy Pineda
Publicist / Fashion PR Consultant

The Plus in life.

Nestlé
Calcium Plus
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Recommended by
The Bone Builder with Fiber
800 grams

Helpful stain-removal tips

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

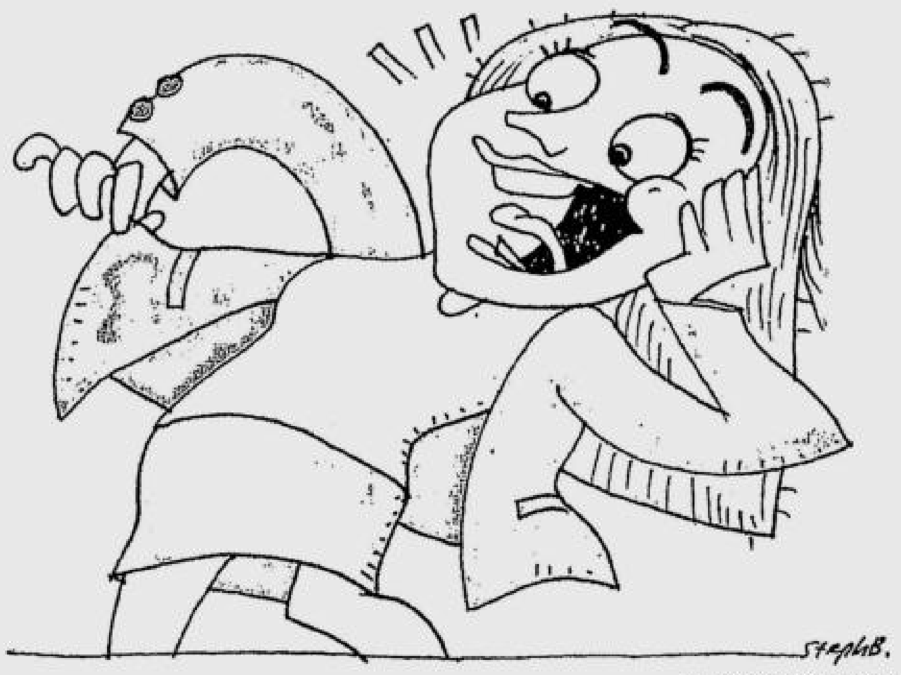


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

It's vital to know how to treat different kinds of blotches on your clothing, to avoid damaging the fabric

HOW do I remove different kinds of stain from my clothes? I'm in my mid-20s and trying to establish a career in public relations. I've started to invest in up-to-the-minute, quality pieces that I can wear to work. Since these items are a bit pricey, I would like to know how to maintain them.

I've ruined a couple of garments because I didn't know how to remove oil, ink and, sometimes, even lipstick stains. I hope you can help me out.

The secret to successful stain removal is in addressing the problem without delay. In the past, I've made the mistake of ignoring stains in the hopes that the dry cleaners could do something about them at a later, more convenient date. But this always resulted in permanently marked clothing.

Now, I make it a point to try and remove the stain immediately and not allow it to set in. If I am unable to remove the offensive eyesore, I promptly bring the soiled article of clothing to the professional cleaners.

But before you attempt to remove the stain by yourself, check the care label and make certain it is not marked "Dry-Clean Only." If it is, you have no other option but to bring the item to your professional cleaner. You must also check if the garment is colorfast so you know if you may use water, which might discolor your clothes.

No scrubs

According to "Chic Simple's Women's Wardrobe," one of my fashion advice bibles, it will help if you try to absorb stains before they set in, by using a napkin to remove excess liquid. The practical wardrobe guide also suggests you avoid scrubbing or pressing, as this could ruin the fabric's texture.

A couple of years back, I vigorously scrubbed a certain spot on one of my favorite jersey tops. I ended up with a misshapen, roughly textured, sorry piece of clothing. So, do be gentle when handling your garments, especially the more delicate ones.

Keep in mind, too, that in case of minor damage caused by at-home-stain-remedies, it is sometimes possible for professional cleaners to restore certain spoiled areas.

First aid

It's vital to know how to treat different kinds of stain. What you need to remove an oil stain is definitely not what you would use to remove lipstick, grass or bloodstains.

One very handy trick I learned is to use soda water to absorb oil stain. When eating out, simply ask the waiter for some soda water, which you can dab on with a paper towel to absorb the oil.

To help you out further, allow me to share with you a list of some of the various types of stain with their corresponding first aid, which I obtained from "Chic Simple's Women's Wardrobe."

Please, note that these recommendations and remedies are mostly for washable fabrics only (as mentioned earlier, non-washables must be brought to the dry-cleaners):

Grease

- These are stains usually caused by oils, butter, mayonnaise, margarine, crayons, medicines, candle wax, oil-based cosmetics.
- To remove, dab on talc (store-bought baby powder will do) and leave it on for half an hour. Brush off the powder, apply a stain remover and wash in the hottest water the garment can endure.

Lipstick

- Use dry-cleaning fluid, then wash with soap and water.

Ink

- Presoak the garment, then use rubbing alcohol, lemon juice or dry-cleaning fluid on the stain. Rinse with cool water.

Tannin

- These stains are caused by ketchup, wine, tea, coffee, vegetables, soft drinks, mustard, fruit juice and the like.
- Soak garment in cool water. Put detergent and white vinegar on stain and wash off with cool water. Allow the garment to air-dry.
- If the stain persists, re-wash with detergent and bleach in the hottest water the garment can endure.

Protein stain

- These are blood, baby formula, deodorant, diaper, egg, meat juices, perspiration and urine stains.
- Apply detergent on stain and soak in cool water. Launder.
- If stain is stubborn, wash again using bleach and the hottest water the garment can endure.

Paint

- Read the label on the paint can and determine if paint is water- or oil-based.
- If paint is water-based and still wet, wash garment and remove stain with soap and water.
- If paint is dry and oil-based, use turpentine to remove stain.

Grass

- If stain is fresh, wash clothing with a heavy-duty detergent and white vinegar.
- If stain is stubborn, use a dry-cleaning fluid.

Perspiration

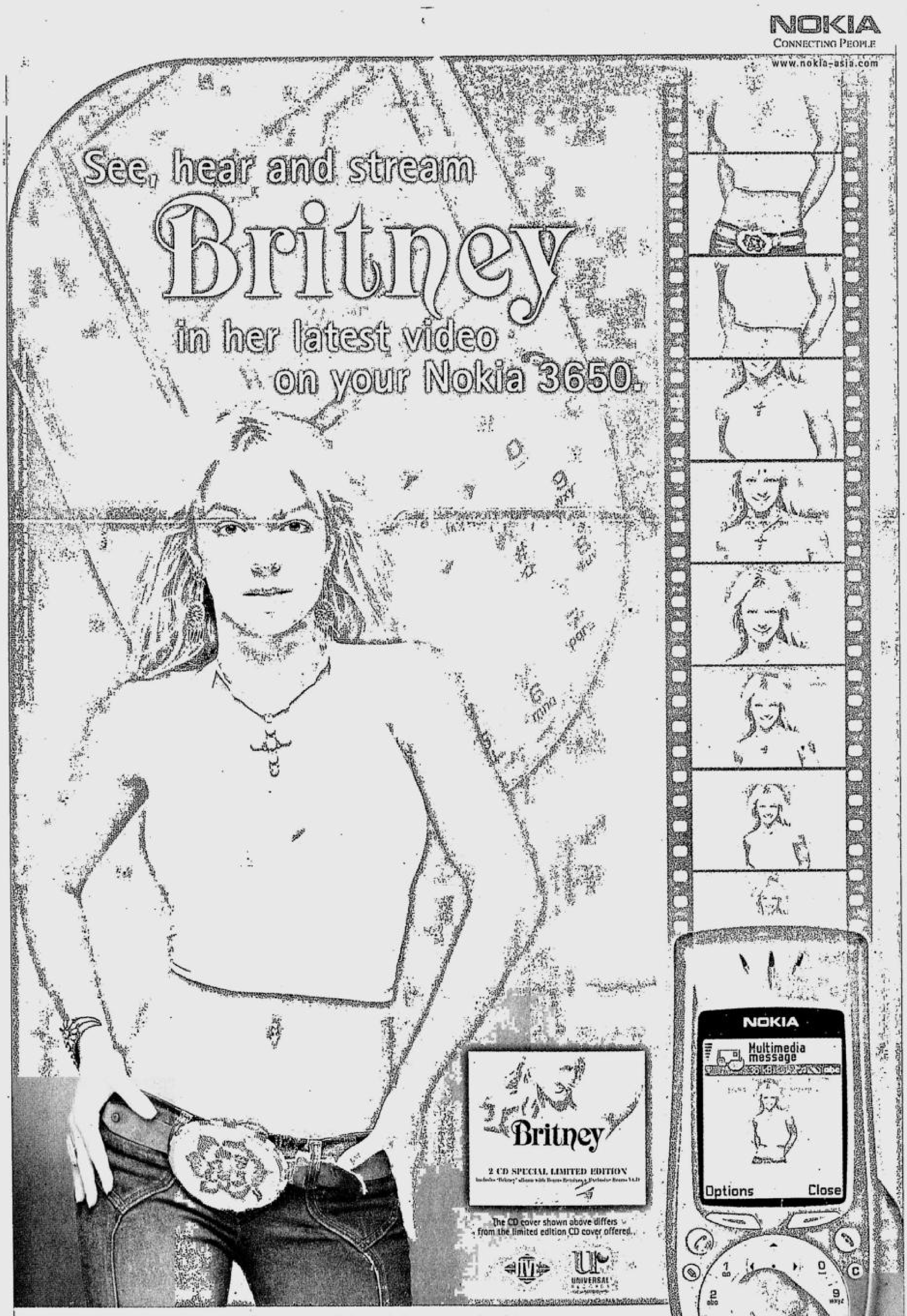
- Silk is most prone to these stains. The longer perspiration stains set in, the more difficult it is to remove.
- A professional must use detergent with a little water, bleach or acid or alkaline solutions.

Combination stains

- These are chocolate, gravy, ice cream and milk stains.
- Apply a dry-cleaning solvent to the stain and then air-dry the garment.
- Use liquid detergent and wash with cool water. Then, use a pre-wash stain remover.
- Wash again with detergent in the hottest water the garment can endure.
- If the above-mentioned procedure does not work, re-wash with detergent and bleach.

If you are ever in doubt, simply ask the advice of a professional so you can minimize damage to your garment. And in case you have other effective stain-removal tips, please send them to me so we can share them with other readers.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



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For particulars on how to stream the new video, please click on the Britney link on the Globe and/or Smart WAP page* and simply follow the instructions.

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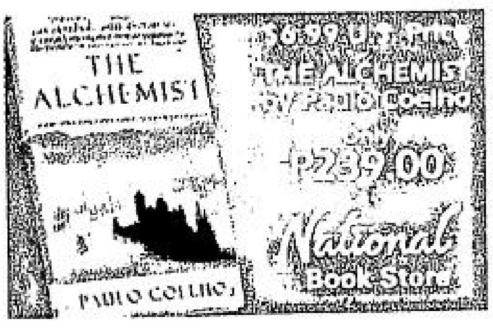
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1340, Series of 2003. Promo runs until June 30, 2003.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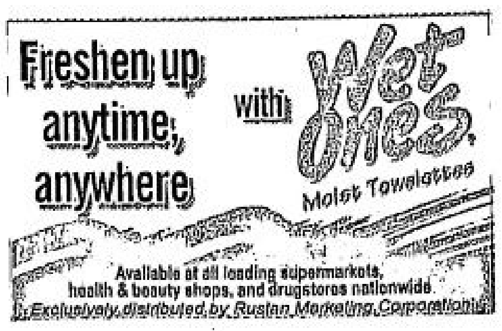
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Massage marathon

The spa and the pursuit of self-pampering are the 'in' lifestyle ventures of today

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT must be one of the most ineptly kept secrets in Metro Manila: the existence of this private spa newly built like a mini Bali in Cagayan Valley where you can't go unless you're invited.

As fate and my job would have it, I've known the owner for some 20 years now, long before he accidentally developed this spa, so I got to spend another weekend there again last week.

Immediately before the rains came, we had our fill of the merciless sun in this beachfront estate at the tip of Luzon.

Actually we weren't tanning; that's not like us. We had some sort of massage marathon, trying the "menu" of massages, treatments, body wraps, scrubs.

That's more like us. Between me and the friends I brought, we got to try the various offerings, although three days weren't enough to cover the entire menu.

But that experience convinced me that there's no stopping the "spa lifestyle" from taking a firmer hold here. More and more people are beginning to believe that they deserve to pamper themselves—almost like a divine right. You work hard, so you relax hard.

Given today's pressure and stress that's bound to burn out even the mightiest of rats, you must take a break if you are to make it in the long haul. Thus, the pursuit of self-pampering is turning into one of the most lucrative businesses these days.

"Detoxing" is the "now" scene (although some people I know are hopelessly toxic).

Of course, it's obvious that in the spa business the Philippines is nowhere near Bali, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Hua Hin, or Phuket. We don't have a Chiva Som or a Banyan Tree here, although this Cagayan Valley private spa comes close to it, but then the owner isn't about to make it commercial.

What we have are day spas sprouting around, either freestanding or in the mall, such as The Spa or **Tessa Valdes**' Urban Spa. There are the hotel spas such as Mandarin Oriental's, or the out-of-town spa destinations such as those in Tagaytay.

It's only a matter of time before local entrepreneurs really cash in on the spa lifestyle and give us a wide range of choices, as in Thailand where you have day spas, destination spas, natural spas (offering natural, organic materials), medical spas (offering relaxation/medical treatments, often the alternative type), hotel spas, among others.

I still can't forget the breathtaking view of the spa at Chedi Hotel in Ubud, Bali, where the infinity-edge pool seems suspended up in the mountain. Our country is a natural setting for spas; we don't need to simulate it.

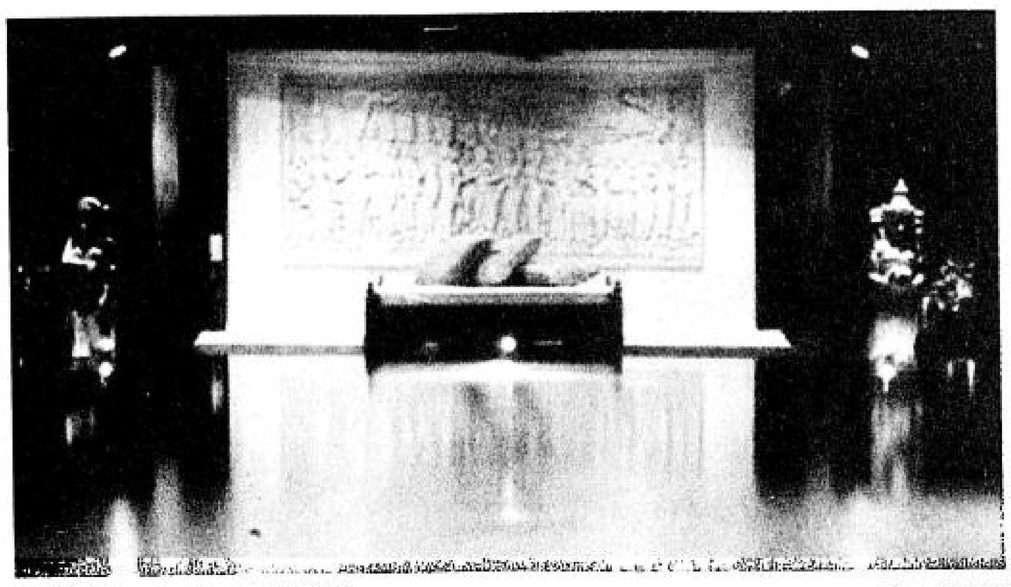
Now there we were last weekend in the farthest corner of Luzon, a good two-hour ride away from Tuguegarao airport.

"We're past Aparri," wailed **Ricky Reyes** as he craned his neck past the road sign.

The ride took much longer than the flight from Manila; it was amazing that the hyperenergetic members of the group, like Ricky and **Ethel Timbol**, actually stayed put in their van seats for that stretch of time. (They had no choice.)

The place is a one-hectare sprawl by the sea. Its centerpiece is a Balinese-inspired

MASSAGE/ G4



PRIVATE spa in Cagayan Valley

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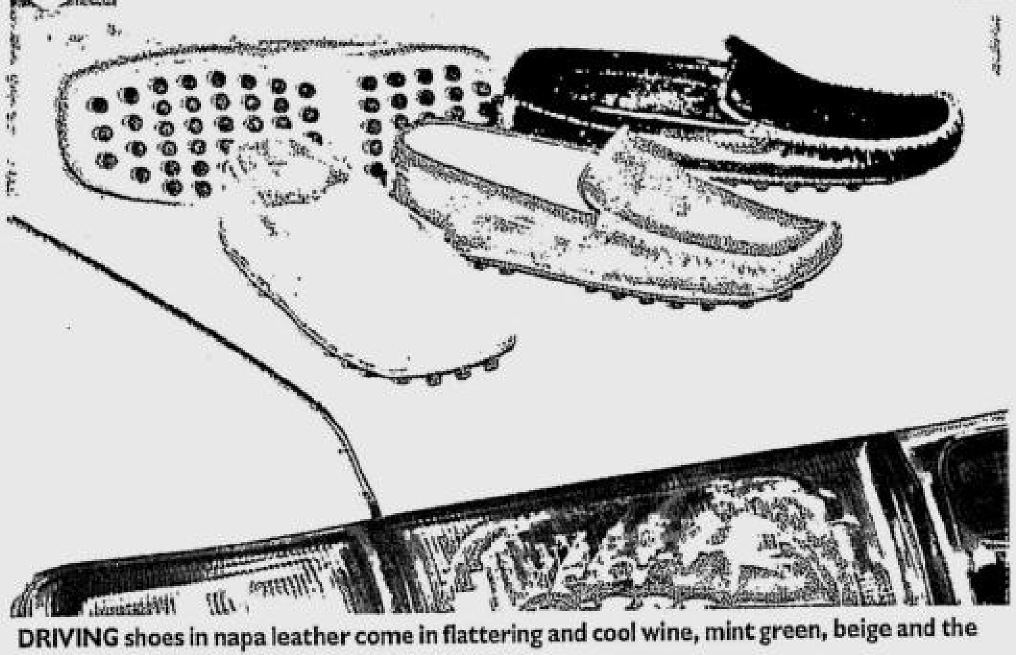
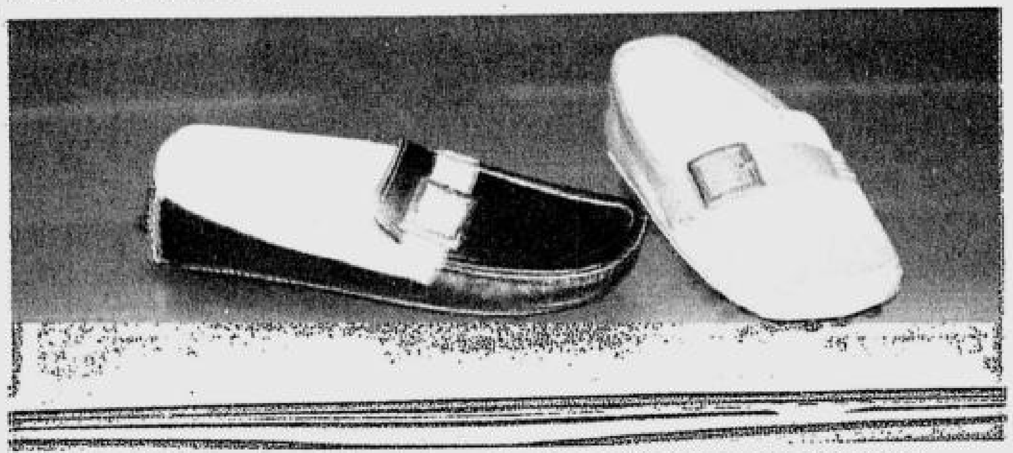
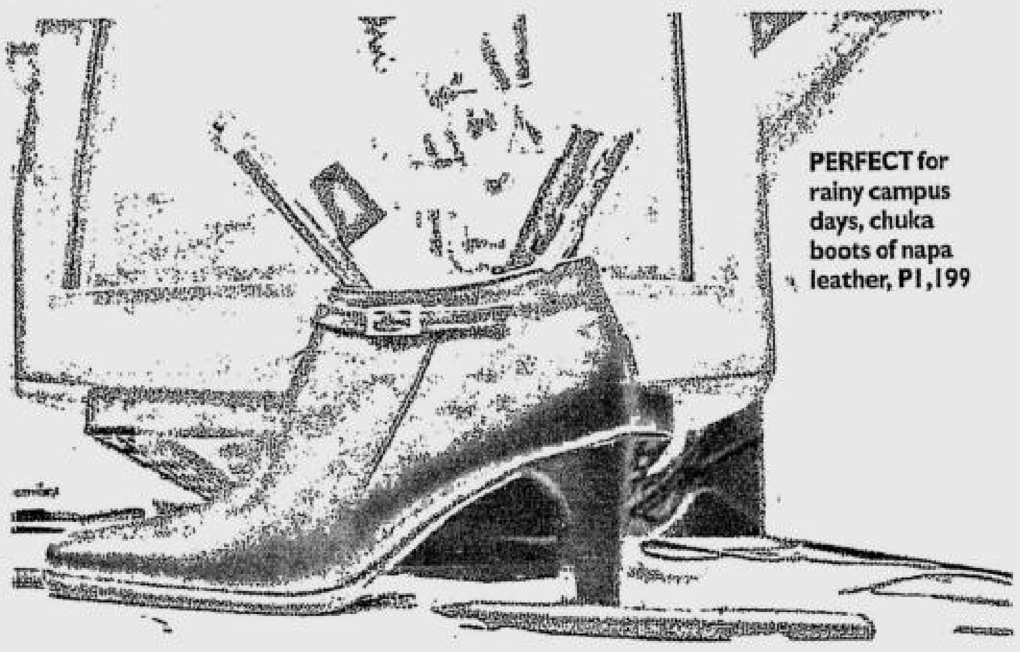


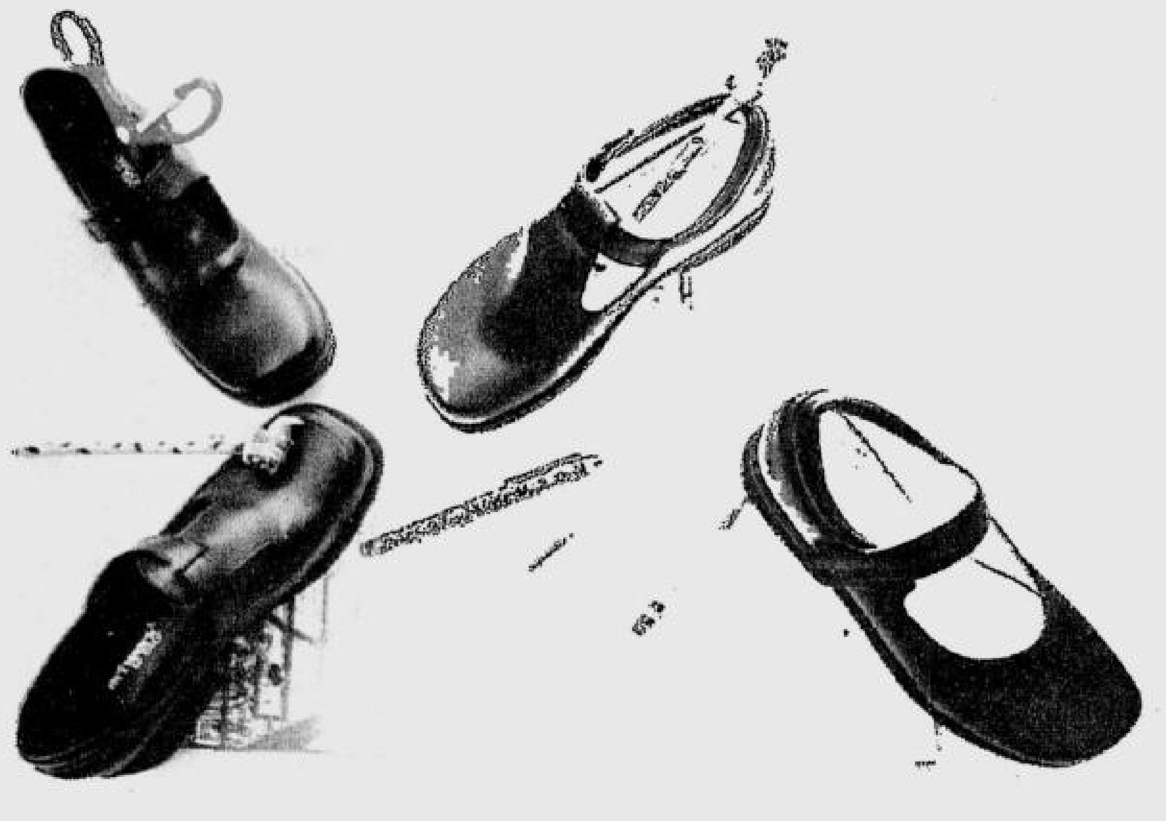
DRIVING shoes in napa leather come in flattering and cool wine, mint green, beige and the go-anywhere black, P950.



TWO-TONED driving shoes in blue/beige and tan/beige with silver buckle, also of napa leather, P950.



PERFECT for rainy campus days, chuka boots of napa leather, P1,199



REGULATION girls' school shoes of napa leather uppers with rubber soles priced from P799 to P1,099.

Class acts

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT'S back-to-school time once again and Artwork by Coly offers regulation footwear for grade and high school girls in sturdy, easy-to-clean napa leather.

Ever the trendsetter in casual shoes, the Artwork by Coly collection for campus coeds comes in the coolest styles, like low-cut boots and mary janes with heels.

But whether you go to school or not, Artwork by Coly has new eye candy for your feet: classic driving shoes with spiked soles given a Coly twist.

Artwork by Coly shoes are sold at all Artwork stores in SM Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan, Cebu, Bacoor, Southmall, Pampanga and Fairview; in Robinsons Pampanga, Metro East, Iloilo and Bacolod; Gaisano Davao; Ayala-Cebu, Festival, Sta. Lucia and Tutuban malls.

SCHOOL SOLES. Napa leather loafers with 2-inch heels, P1,099

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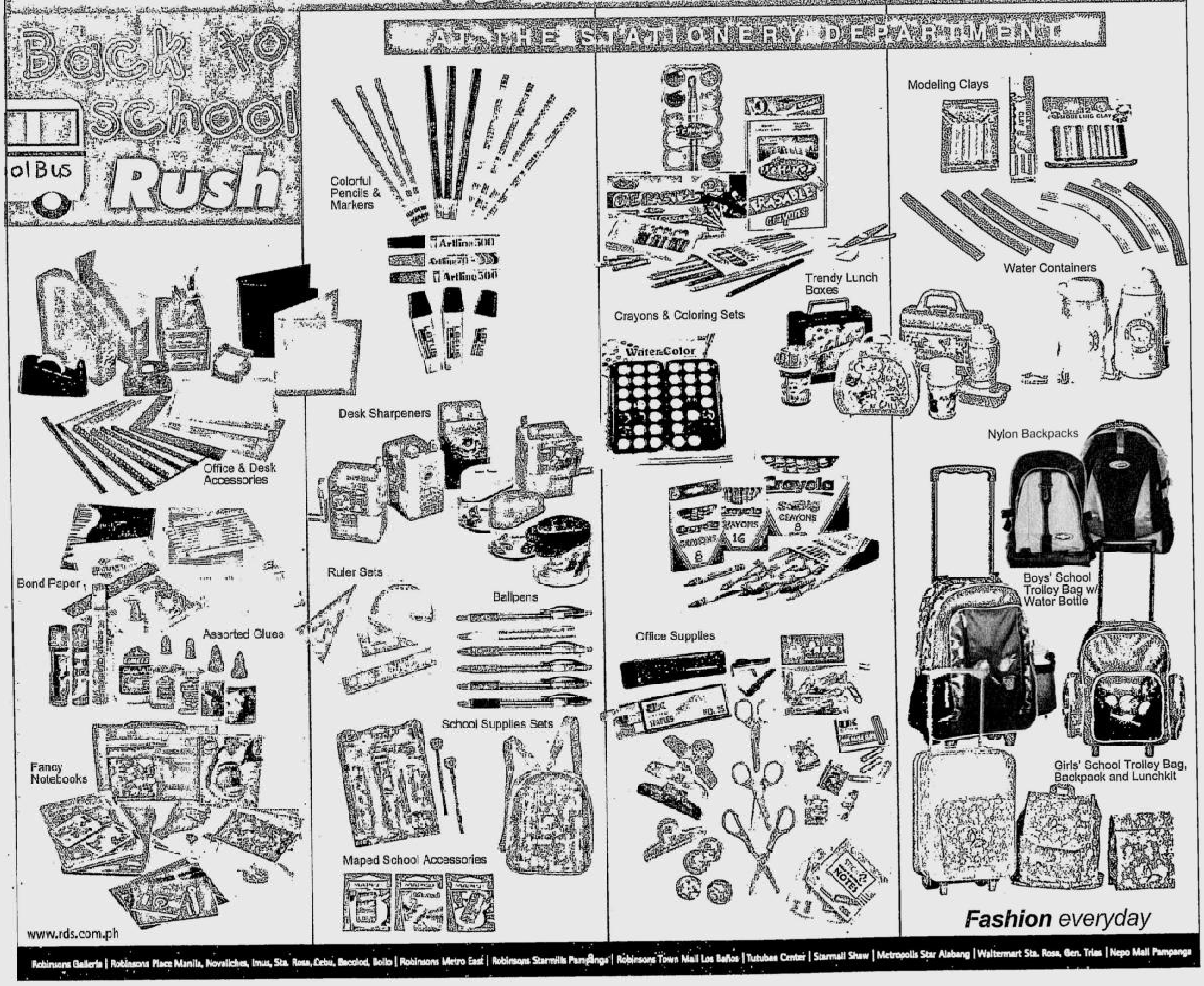

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Fundraiser to benefit schools in Negros Occidental

SSA BACOLOD Class '79 will hold a fundraising activity, "Tune Up Match for the NCR Area Championship Bolo Cup 2003." The PPSA level II sanctioned match hosted by the 1911 Gun Club will be held June 7-8 at the SEG Shooting Range, Fort Bonifacio, Makati. Major beneficiaries for this event are the Holy Family Vocational High School in Sum-Ag, Negros Occidental and St. Scholastica's Academy in Bacolod City. Call 7769665; 8092905; 0917-5395315; and 0920-9058654.

GOINGS ON

TALK. Languages International English teacher Richard Signey talks on "Pnoyspik: Language and Nationalism" before the Rotary Club of San Juan, June 11, at Club Filipino; and Northwestern University Illinois alumni chapter, June 18, Manila Polo Club.

SEMINAR. Quark Henares is conducting a Digital Handycam Seminar for Avid Club members and non-members alike on May 31 at Rockwell Club, 1-6 p.m. Avid Club members may attend the seminar for free while non-members pay only P500. Call Mae or Almen at 525-3634.

LANGUAGE COURSES. The Goethe Institut Inter Nationes Manila, German Cultural Center, will offer German language courses for beginners and advance students during the second trimester, June 10-Sept. 7. Enrollment will start on June 2. Call 7224671/73; fax 7224673; e-mail goethela@goethemnla.org; or visit www.goethe.de/manila or www.goethe.de.

END OF SUMMER FASHION SHOW TONIGHT
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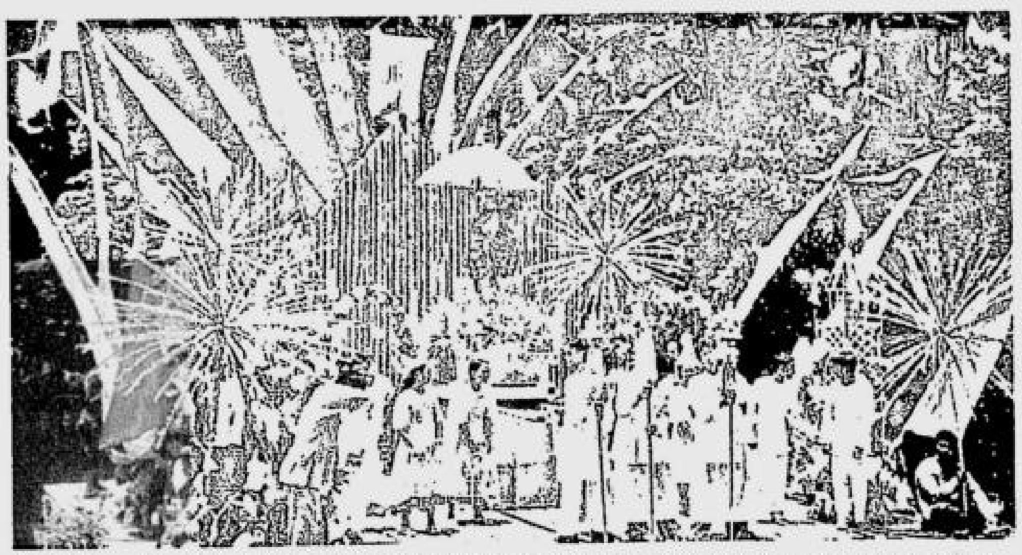
Casual wear brand promo ongoing in Cebu

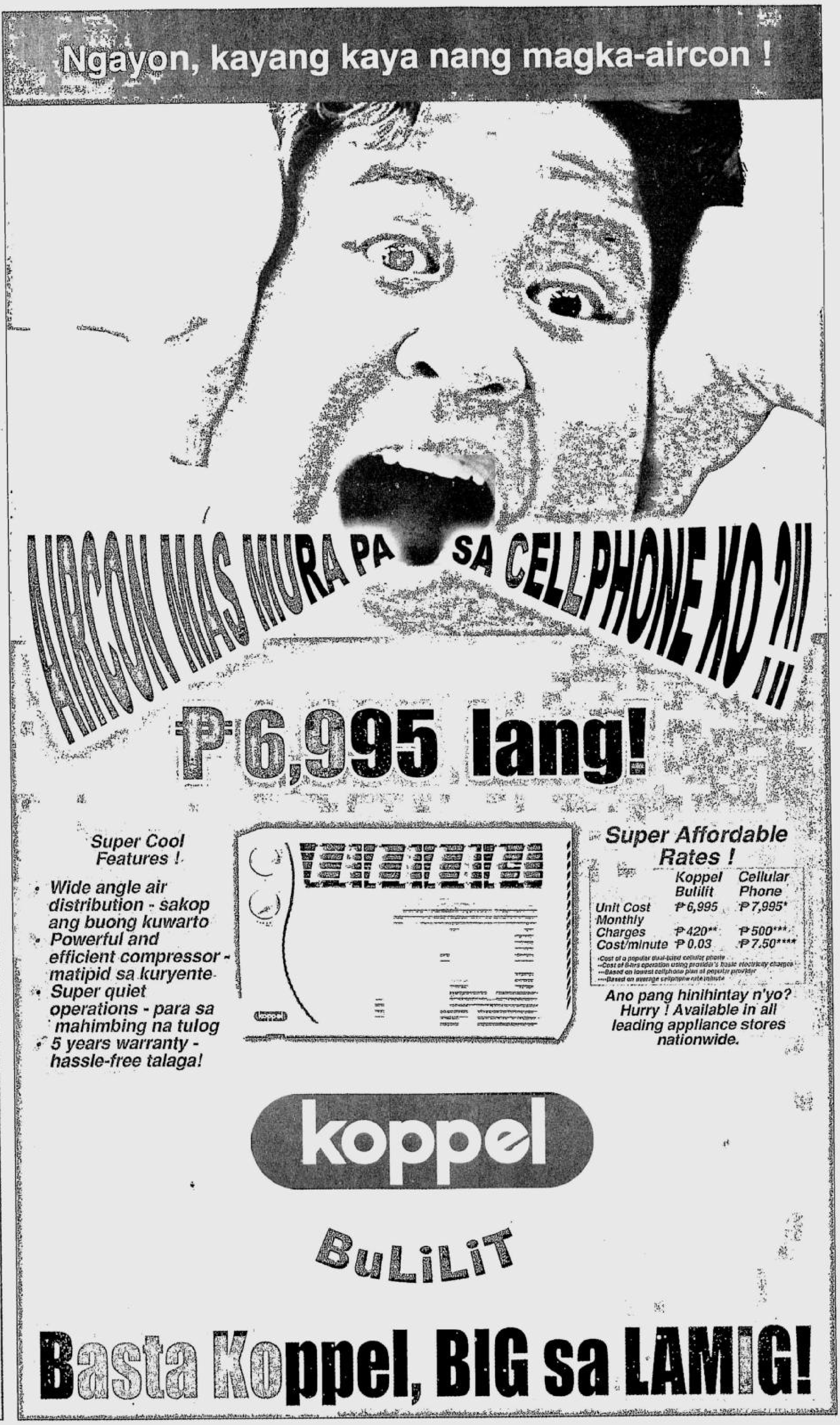
ISLANDS Souvenirs launched recently its latest apparel and accessories at Ayala Center Cebu through its promotion called "Summer in Cebu," where shopaholics have the chance to win attractive Islands Souvenirs items until May 31.

To join, shoppers have to present a minimum single purchase receipt worth P500 from any Ayala Center Cebu outlet (food and non-food) at the "Summer in Cebu" promo booth. Shoppers coming from Bohol, Dumaguete, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro and other areas outside Cebu, must show the required proof of travel along with the proof of purchase. Instant prizes like Islands Souvenirs novelty items await lucky shoppers. Filled-up entry forms may be dropped in designated boxes. Lucky winners of the raffle draw may win an overnight stay at some of Cebu's top resorts, shopping money worth P5,000, and round-trip tickets courtesy of Air Philippines to any destination.



VILLA Escudero Plantations and Resort in San Pablo City marks the "Pista ng Pag-Akyat" or Feast of the Ascencion on June 1. The event starts with a High Mass at 9 a.m. at the Escudero Village Chapel, with the University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra and the Coro Tomasino conducted by Prof. Hermie Ranera performing sacred 18th-century music by Mozart and other classical composers. It will be followed by a fluvial procession of the image of the Risen Christ on the Villa Escudero river.

BANK of Commerce Pasay Road branch was inaugurated recently. Shown cutting the ribbon are (from left) Ricardo M. Tan, president, PDIC; Ms Velarde; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay; Ma. Teresa Cancio-Suplico, Goodwill Bookstore; Sony Aguilar, CFO/La Carlota Azucarera; and Bro. Mike Velarde.



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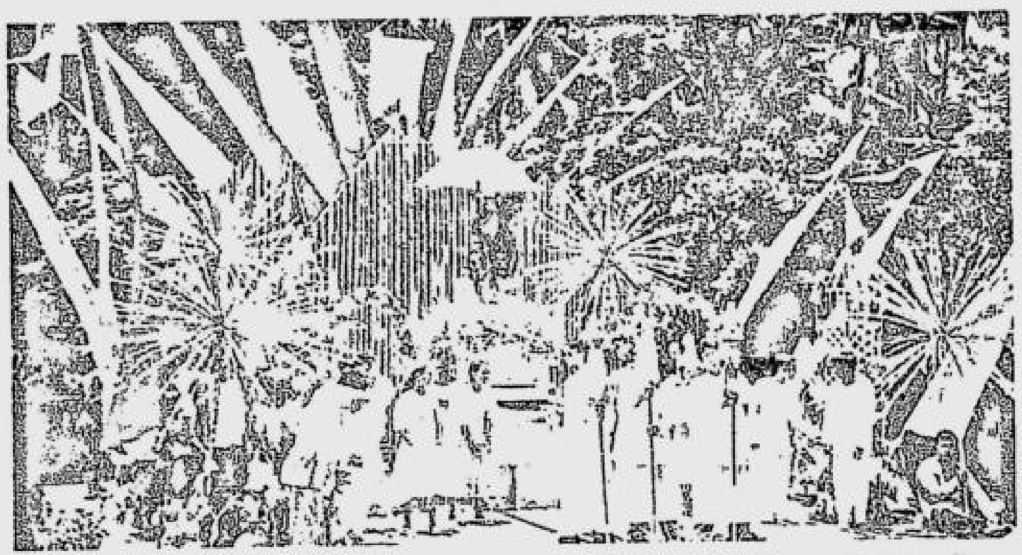

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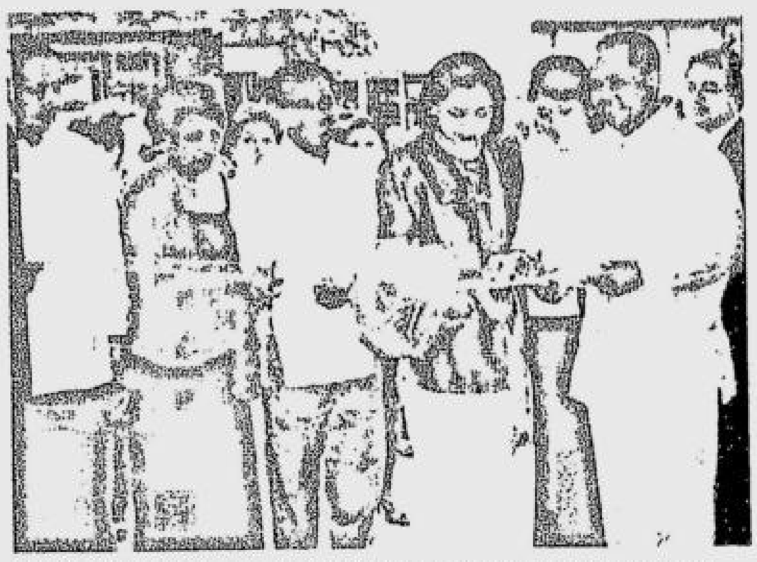

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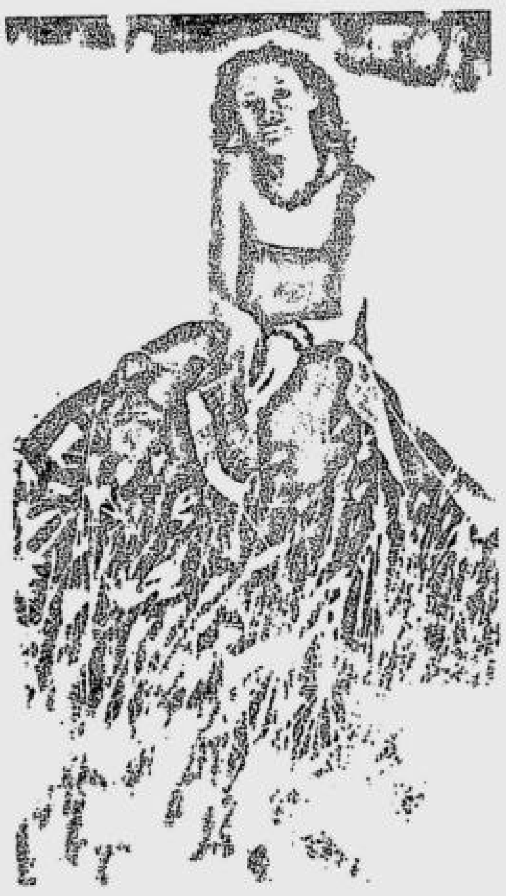

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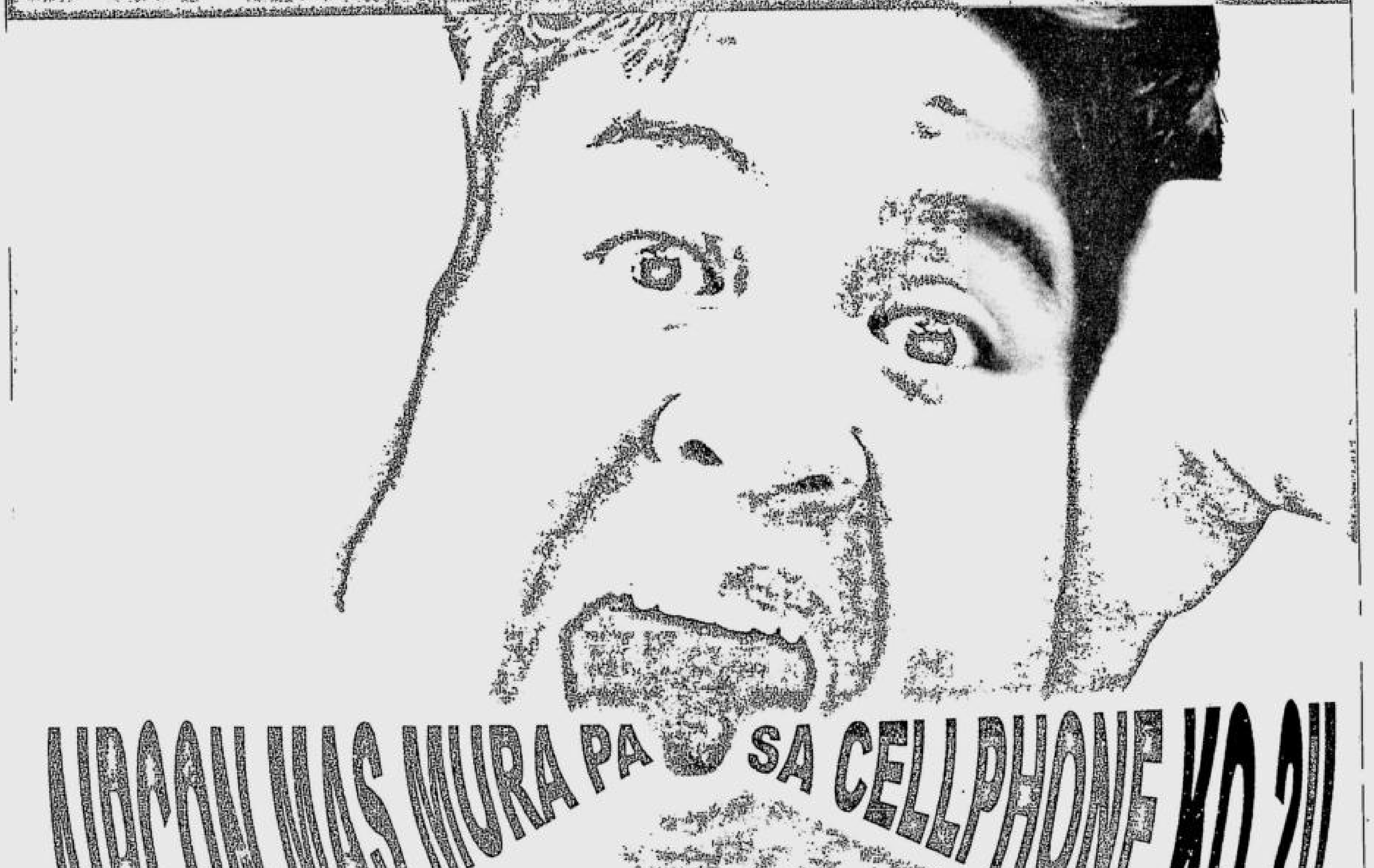
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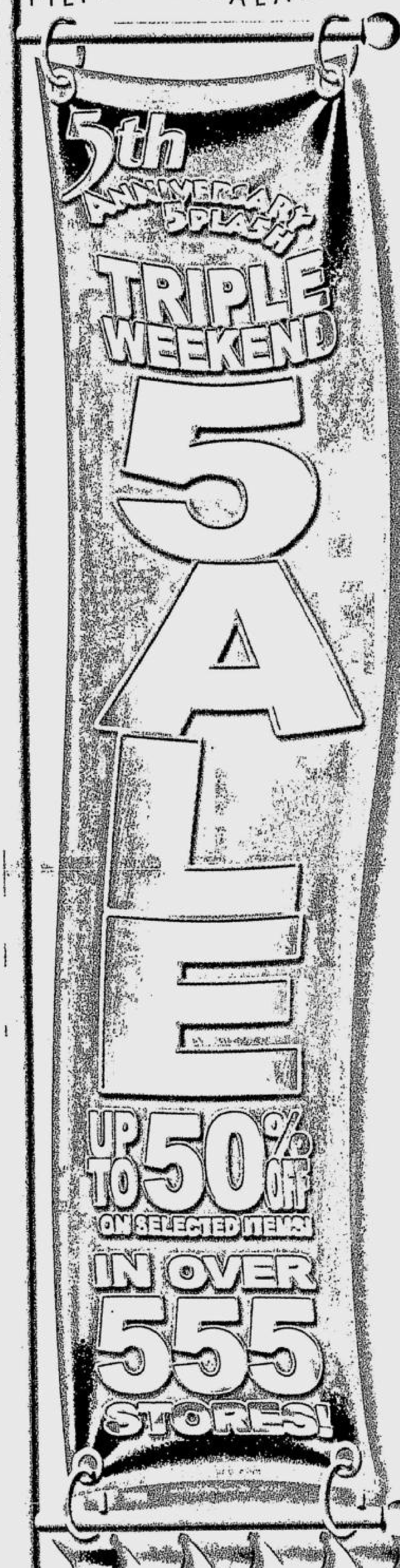

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Massage marathon

From page G1

house and garden built around an infinity-edge pool.

Spreading out from the house are clusters of guest rooms with their own lush gardens, and another infinity-edge pool. The master's room in the spa pavilion even has its own jacuzzi pool.

Apart from these amenities, what really gives you a most relaxing time is the extensive menu of massages, treatments, body oils and scrubs, using natural and organic materials sourced assiduously by the woman who conceptualized this spa.

You start with a footbath of seawater and fragrant oils, followed by the massage or treatment you choose. In my case it's always a deep tissue massage (called Javana) using organic wheat and dried lavender seeds, or the aromatherapy massage using rosemary, geranium and sweet almond oil. What makes the massage different is it's synchronized—two pairs of hands working on your body at the same time.

Some of my friends, like **Rhoda Campos**, Rustan's associate director for marketing cosmetics and toiletries, chose the "indulgence" treatment, meaning, the works, from the footbath, aroma scalp, herbal stream to synchronized body scrub, oatmeal wrap, Vichy shower, even floral milk bath.

We had three days to try the services, have our fill of the meals prepared by the house, each one fattening, including the different pastas and *lengua* prepared by **Father Giovanni**, the Franciscan parish priest of the place who has been posted in Cagayan Valley for 30 years now.

As the master of the house said, it is in this quaint town in Cagayan where the best Italian food in the Philippines is found, thanks to "Fr. Nana."

Photographs of this scenic place came out in our glossy magazine months ago. That shoot was our first visit there. This time, the estate even looks better and the spa services have been fine-tuned.

But still, the owner, who prefers to be unnamed, has no definite plans of opening it to the commercial market. However, the place is available to friends and small groups, which must reserve ahead of time.

Spas could be a big tourism draw for us, the way they've been for Thailand, Malaysia and Bali. The Philippines has what it takes to be a spa destination—from uniquely beautiful natural settings to indigenous materials, and very amiable people. I don't see why we shouldn't go for it.

Time stands still when you're in the spa. On our flight back to Manila, hardly had we overcome the heat of the Tuguegarao sun when our plane began its descent into the storm. It was back to earth and the harried gloom.

Goodbye, Noli

As I finished this column on a stormy Wednesday, I got word from **Larry Cruz** that one of the country's leading design artists, **Noli Galang**, has just died.

We worked with Noli on the coffee-table book of **Bencab** launched just last year. Having worked at Asia Magazine in Hong Kong, The Straits Times in Singapore, Noli was a name in graphic design in the region. It is said that nobody has an eye for typography the way he did—classic, elegant yet dynamic.

I was privileged to have worked with him on several projects and learned in the process. He was not only artistic, he was also meticulous, a perfectionist, yet amazingly very patient with details, and more so, with us—a true professional.

We worked together on Larry Cruz's "Malate" book, on "Pinoy TV: The History of ABS-CBN," and last year the Bencab book.

What I also loved about him was his good memory—he had an incredible recall of movies, books, pop-culture trivia in general, and of anecdotes and details about celebrities and his colleagues in media. He passed on interesting stories to me about the personal lives of my editors, which I promise will remain safe with me (most of the time, at least).

He'd often told me that we must publish a book on **Dolphy**, who deserved such a tribute. He reiterated that to me again when **Nida Blanca** died. To design a book on Dolphy was one of his goals. It has remained unfulfilled.

We condole with Noli's wife **Nima**, who, Larry reminded me, is the daughter of **Tenzing Norgay**, the Nepali guide of Sir **Edmund Hillary** who climbed Mt. Everest in 1953.

It is a poignant irony that the 50th anniversary of Hillary's conquest of Mt. Everest is being celebrated this week in Nepal. Nima's brother was in Nepal to represent their father who died in 1986.

All these years Nima has lived here with Noli.

We shall miss Noli. No wonder the weather has been so sad.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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Kyla
• SM Manila, June 8 • 5PM
• Festival Mall, June 12 • 5PM
Nina
• SM Megamall, June 15 • 4:30PM
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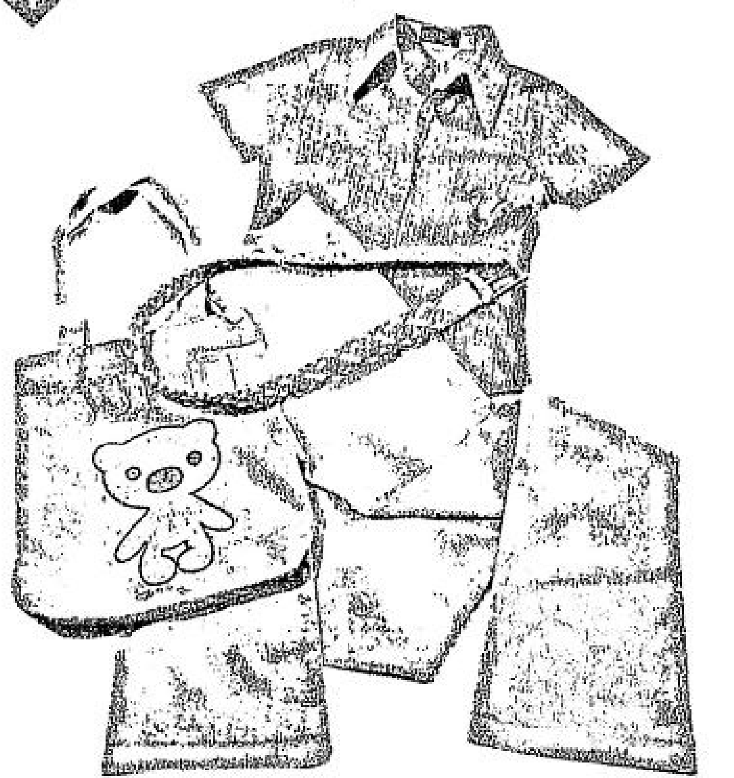
No-pain way to gain smoother skin /H4

Cool to go Solo

A fashion shop offers style at less than P500

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Roger Carpio



STRIPED button-up shirt (P395), beige pants (P495), printed canvas bag (P195), woven belt (P145), silver bangle (P95) and earrings (P145)

STYLE has a price. But a neophyte in the garment industry begs to differ. After all, who is willing to give up a limb for a piece of nice duds—all the time?

With not a single item marked over P500, this new boutique breaks away from the price-tag-crazy pack and proudly goes, well, Solo.

The only local fashion store in its category, Solo happily indulges every young, cash-strapped but fashion-savvy individual with the trendiest branded clothes and accessories. And it's not pulling your leg.

Now you can for-

COOL/H2

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Perfect for when you've got lots of homework to take home.

The new Zero G® Shoes. Envisioned to Defy Gravity.

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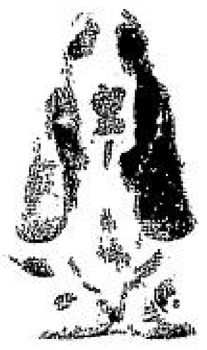

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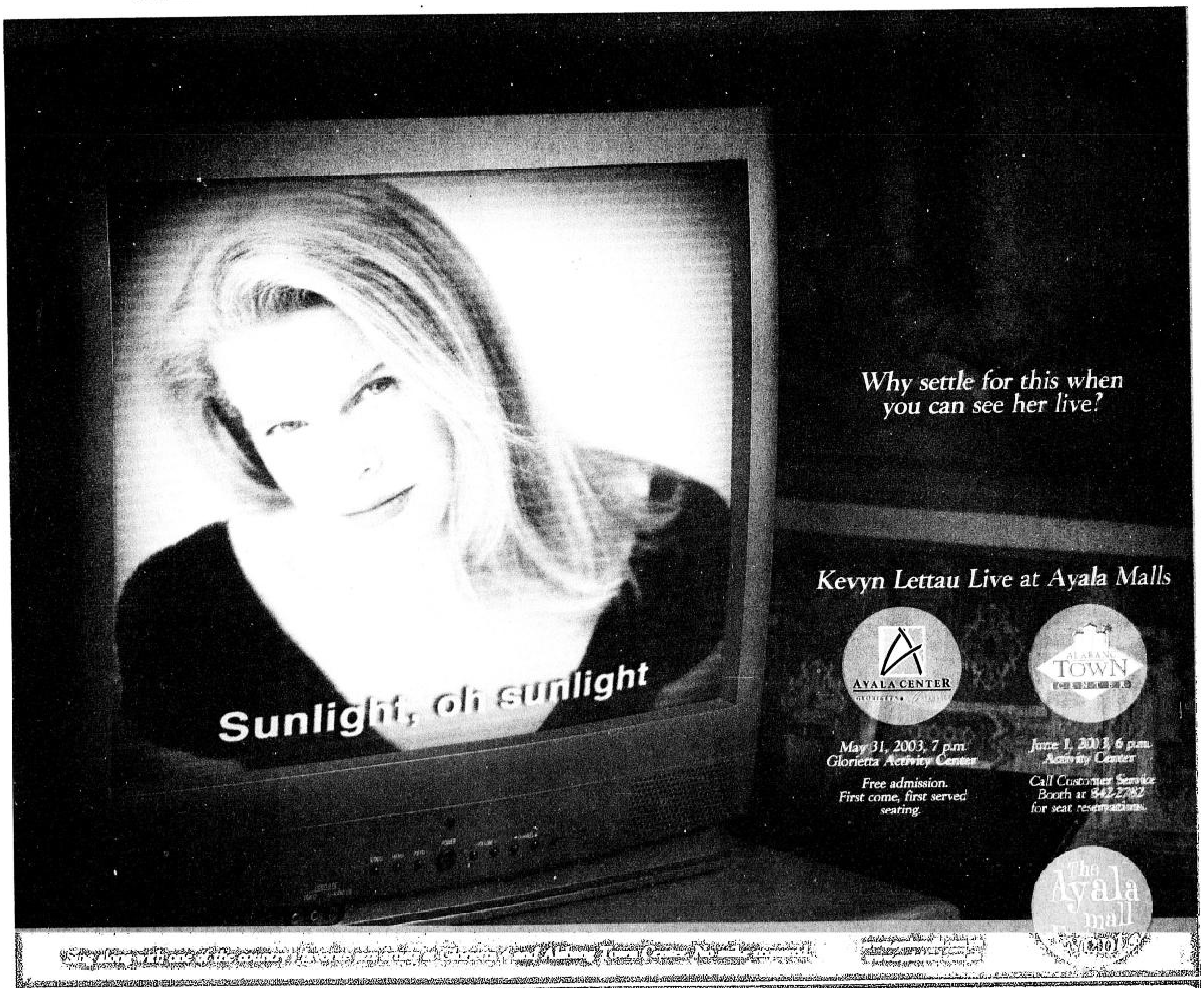

Why settle for this when you can see her live?

Kevyn Lettau Live at Ayala Malls

AYALA CENTER
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May 31, 2003, 7 p.m.
Glorietta Activity Center
Free admission.
First come, first served seating.

June 1, 2003, 6 p.m.
Activity Center
Call Customer Service Booth at 842-2782 for seat reservations.

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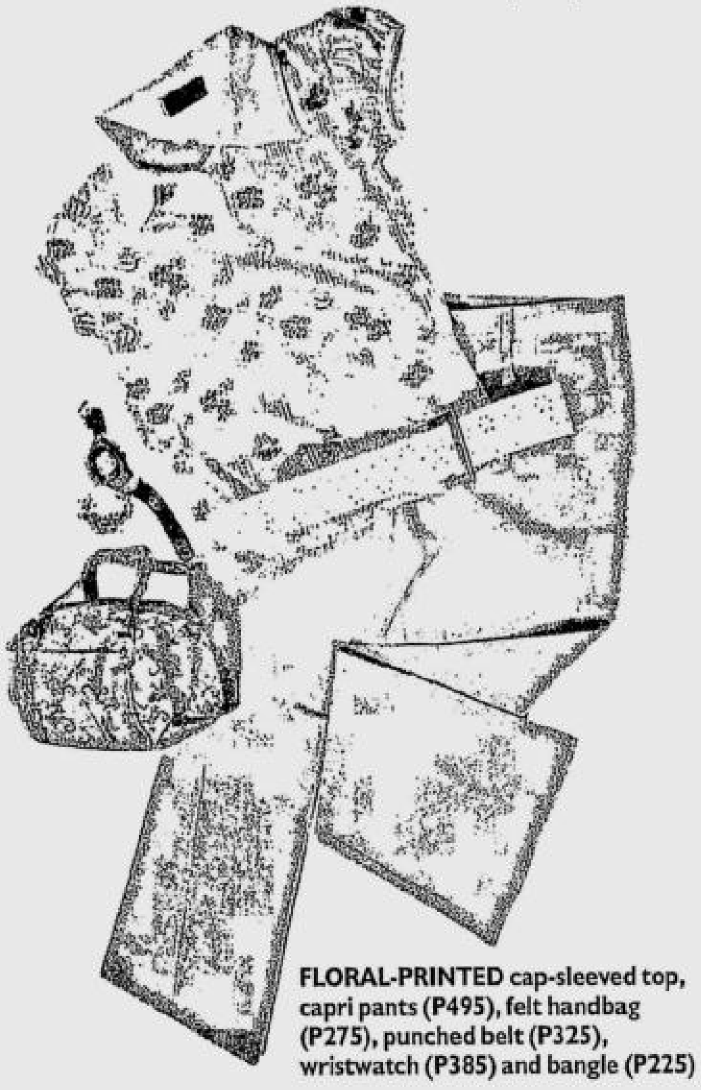
SLEEVELESS tee (P345), sweat pants (P395), body bag (P395), fisherman's hat (P365) and wooden bead necklace (P45)

V-NECK striped shirt with waistband (P395), fatigue carpenter capris (P495), belt (P125), bangle (P225), necklace (P75) and star watch (P385)

Cool to go Solo



FLORAL-PRINTED cap-sleeved top, capri pants (P495), felt handbag (P275), punched belt (P325), wristwatch (P385) and bangle (P225)

From page H1

get about sweating and huffing while rummaging through pocket-friendly designer castoffs in the flea market (that's *ukay-ukay* for you). The pieces in this spread are just a minute sampling of the quality finds in Solo's six branches—with two more to come soon.

Designed by a young, creative team that understands your need to stand out, Solo offers just about everything hip: denim blues, cargo and capri pants for her (with the hippest belts to match), and sweat pants and sleeveless shirts for the athletic him.

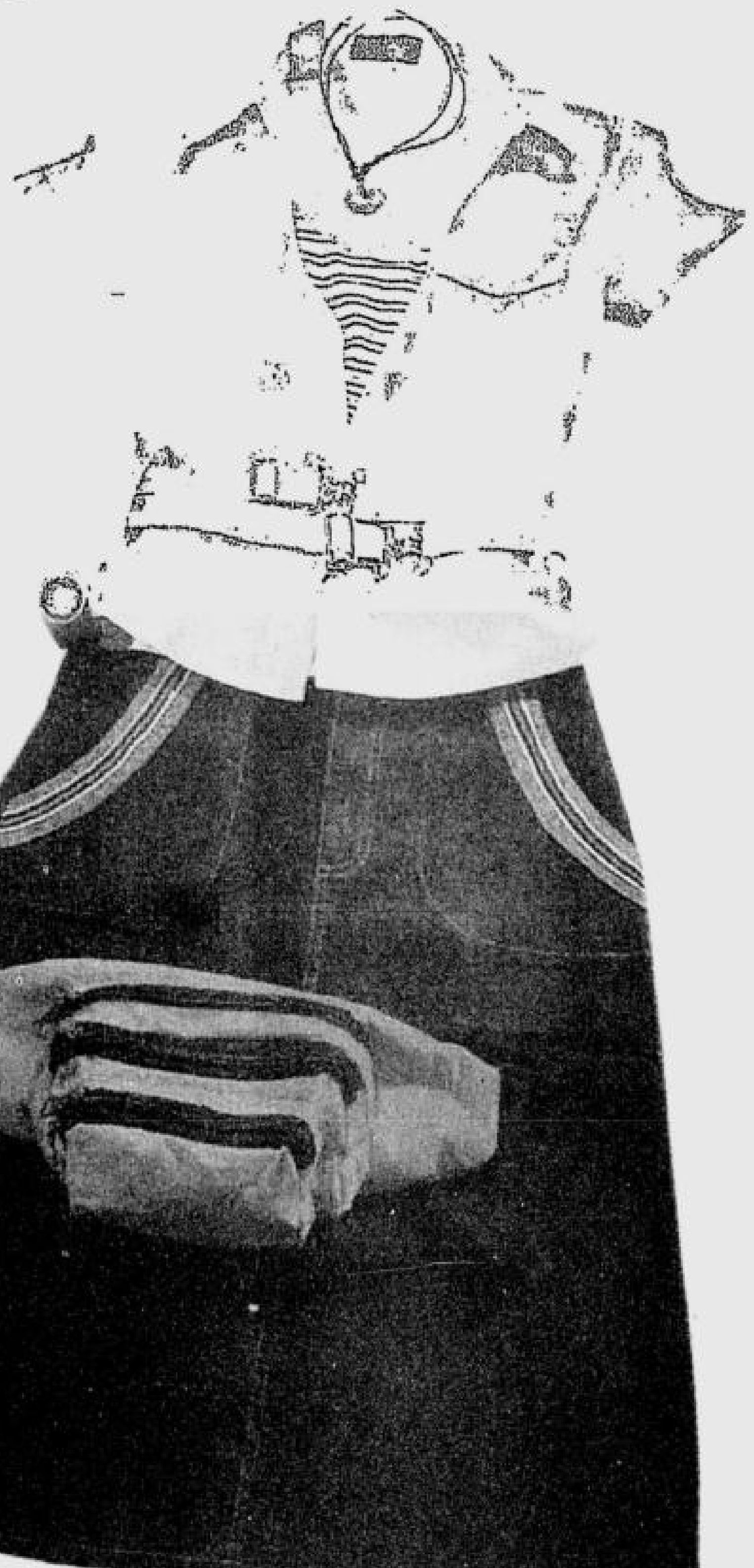
Of course, there are the indispensable polo shirts for guys and wow-'em tops for her.

In a few days, you'll be trooping back to school, and though that may not exactly be good news, Solo may just be your cool solution to getting through those mind-numbingly boring lectures and painfully gut-twisting exams. We're not telling you not to hit the books, but we sure don't want you to look like nerdy weirdos.

Solo has quite a collection of funky jewelry and watches—to better remind you of your next term-paper deadline. It has belt bags, body bags and teeny-weeny pretty bags to stuff your things in, and cell-phone cases for your brand-new Nokias. There are even hats and caps to top your look.

Since Solo items come at P99 to P499 a piece, your lunch money is safe. You can save enough for weekend parties and that Frappuccino kick.

Solo outlets are located at Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Galleria and Sta. Rosa, SM Centerpoint, Ali Mall Cubao and Abanao Square in Baguio City. It will soon open in SM Manila and Festival Mall Alabang.



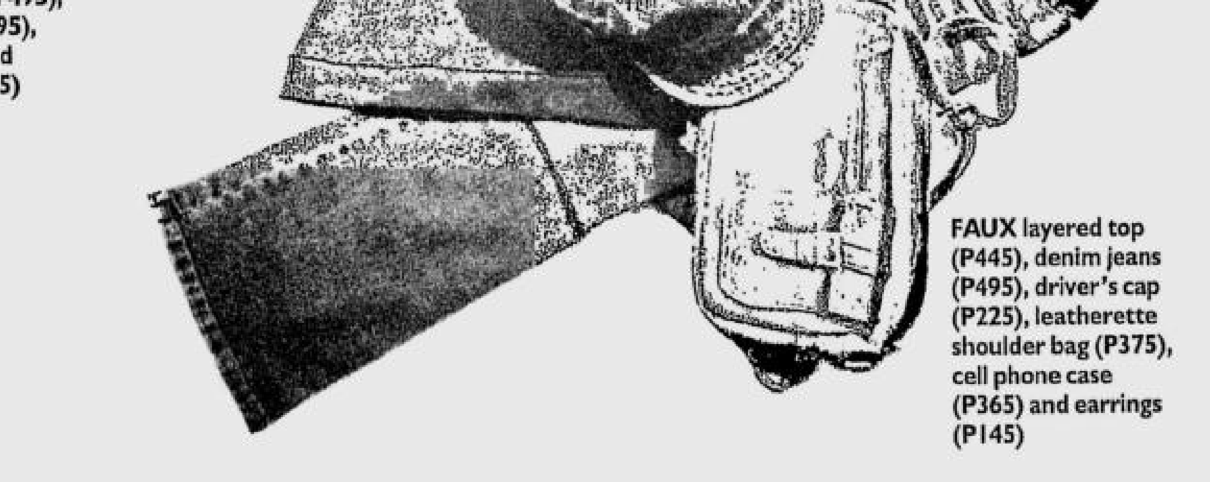
STRIPED tank top (P145), double-belted beige safari top (P495), denim skirt with striped pocket detail (P395), wristwatch (P385), belt bag (P175)

A new boutique breaks away from the pack

and proudly goes Solo

SHORT-SLEEVED top with rhinestones (P395), four-pocket cord capris (P495), leather belt with heart-shaped buckle (P195), red bag with adjustable leather straps (P295), cell phone case (P175) and heart-design wristwatch (P385)

SLEEVELESS tee with embroidery (P445), two-tone shirt (P495), denim jeans (P495), wallet (P145) and baseball cap (P95)



FAUX layered top (P445), denim jeans (P495), driver's cap (P225), leatherette shoulder bag (P375), cell phone case (P365) and earrings (P145)

No-pain way to gain smoother skin

From page H4

mend was a visit to a dermatologist to inquire about dermabrasion or sanding, which was rather drastic and caused a lot of bleeding. Some actually underwent the procedure but most just said thanks and dropped the idea.

Can't say I blame them, for it takes a lot of money and courage to go through the procedure.

Around three years ago, I ran into an old school friend, who is in show business now, and her formerly scarred acne-prone skin was so much smoother and even-toned. I asked what she did, and she mentioned the Obagi skin care line that she got from her dermatologist, Dr. Vicki Belo.

The change in her skin was remarkable. She agreed to let me mention her in my column on the condition that I would not use her name. Since then, I have been hearing about Obagi from women with other skin problems like wrinkles, sun spots, melasma (patchy brown coloration of the skin), freckles, chicken pox scars, and hyper pigmentation.

One common factor among regular users of the Obagi line is even-toned whiter, smoother, more pinkish, firmer, moister and almost pore-less skin. I have touched some of those skin, and it seems Obagi works from within to make cells stronger resulting in smoother and younger looking skin.

Dr. Belo gave recently a thank-you party for faithful Obagi clients—the Obagi Circle of Friends—at the Makati Shangri-La. Over a thousand people attended, and the women were only too happy to tell me what Obagi did for them. They were aged from 15 to 80, and the common side effects mentioned were initial soreness, peeling and skin redness, which they felt were minor compared to several sessions of bloody face sanding and dermabrasion depending on the severity of the scars.

Obagi, by the way, will not completely eliminate the deepest scars but it will make them almost invisible. Constant use over time has made a lot of them disappear. I bought a complete Obagi set for P10,500 three years ago as a present for my aunt. I expect the price has gone up considerably since.

At Dr. Belo's party, there were booths that gave away brochures on other treatments available from her clinic but I concentrated on treatments for acne.

Power Peel

I found out that this was Kate Moss' favorite facial treatment from a beauty book called "Super Model's Beauty Secrets." Corundum Oxide crystals, plus a vacuum, is used to gently remove dead skin and stimulate the deeper layers of skin. The procedure benefits those with acne scars, superficial pigmentation, fine lines and chicken pox marks.

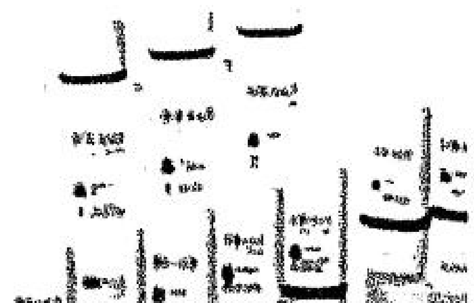
ClearLight Acne therapy—Totally effective and painless, the 10-20 minute procedure is said to have no side effects. A blue light aimed at the acne agitates it and causes it to implode, killing the bacteria as well. A total of eight treatments are given in a month, at the end of which clear skin is expected to be achieved.

Cortisone injection—A Godsend for cystic acne or any huge pimple that has to disappear in two days. I tried this, and a huge, hard red lump on my face shriveled up in a matter of hours and was totally gone in two days.

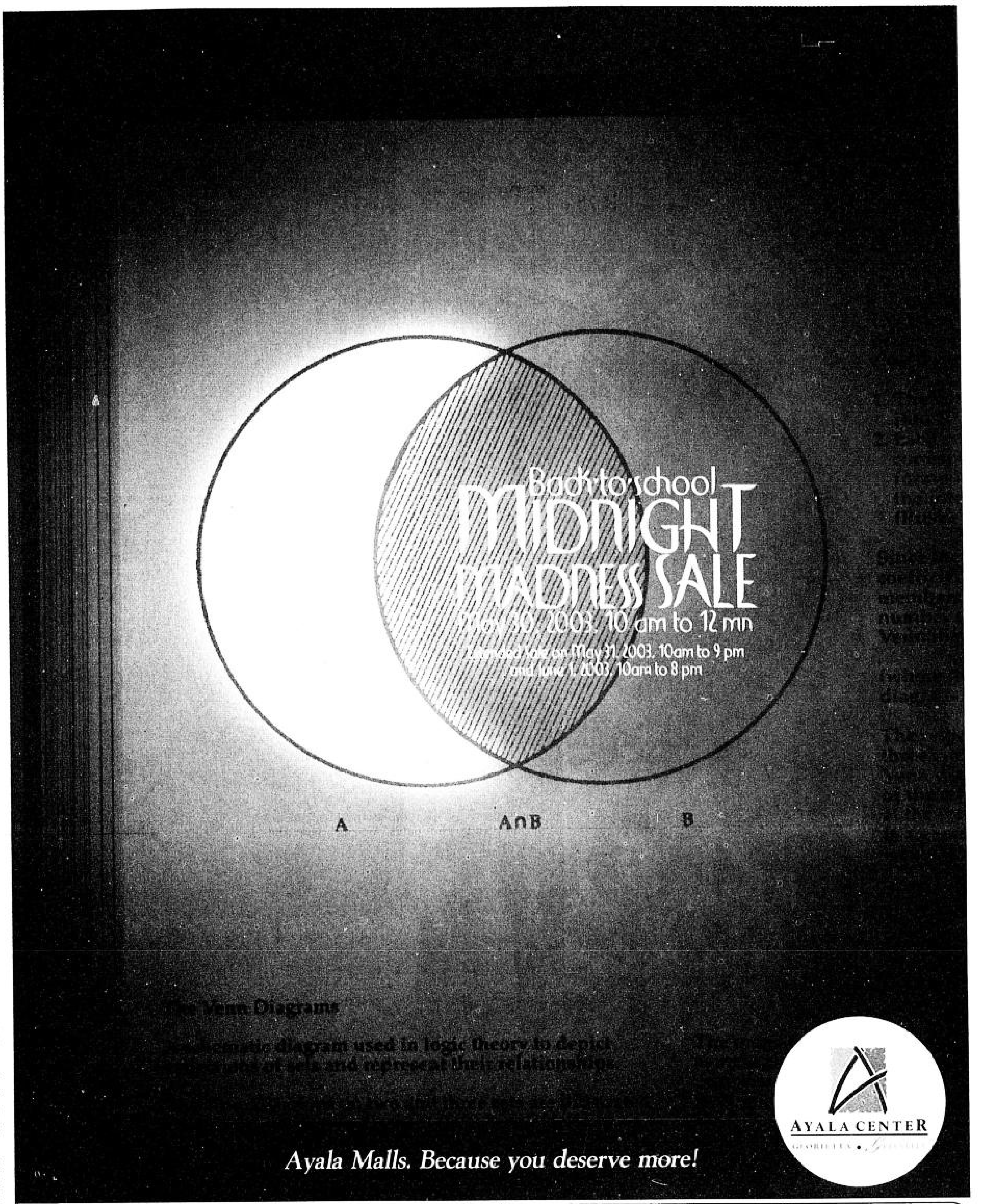
EpiLight IPL (intense pulse light)—This is meant specifically to reverse sun damage like wrinkles and broken capillaries and stimulate collagen production to restore skin's firmness and shrink large pores. It was also found recently to temporarily slow down oil production.

The Belo Medical Group exclusively distributes Obagi. For any inquiries call the clinic nearest you: Makati-817-7178/9283 or 8671267; Alabang-807-2212; Ortigas-637-3676 to 77; T. Morato-373-3355/3188; and Greenhills 727-4208. E-mail belomed@pacific.net.ph, website: www.belomed.com

Obagi users have even-toned whiter, smoother, more pinkish, firmer, moister and almost pore-less skin



OBAGI


Back-to-school
Midnight
Madness Sale
May 30, 2003, 10 am to 12 mn
Extended Sale on May 31, 2003, 10am to 9 pm
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A∩B
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Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!

Make a mad dash for back-to-school bargains at Ayala Center!

Free parking with any P1,000 single receipt purchase on May 30 only. Parking coupons may be redeemed at Glorietta and Greenbelt Customer Service Booths (offer good only on May 30).

Food Choices: With a minimum meal purchase of P100 with Nestea Iced Tea, get free Nescafe Coffee at redemption booths at Food Choices, Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3. Valid only on May 30, 3:00 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Timezone: For every P300 worth of new or reload Powercard purchase, customer gets 2 non-redemption games, FREE. Get 4 free non-redemption games with a P500 Powercard reload. Gold Card members get 5 free non-redemption games with every P500 reload. Valid only on May 30.

Ayala Cinemas: Buy-one-take-one on the last full show at all Glorietta 4 cinemas, except those with reserved seating. Valid only on May 30.

SM Makati: Up to 50% off on selected items from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 30, and during regular store hours up to June 1.

Check out exciting offers at these hotels from May 30 to June 1.

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Hotel Intercontinental Manila - 8159711
Mandarin Oriental Manila - 7508888
New World Renaissance Hotel - 8116888
Shangri-La Hotel Manila - 8138888
The Peninsula Manila - 8103456

Go mad with these instant prizes!

Get a chance to win these instant prizes with every P1,000 single or accumulated purchase (food, non-food, and hotel accommodation) from any Ayala Center Makati establishment: Lee makeup pouch (1,000 winners), Ralph perfume vials (750 winners), Polo Blue perfume vials (750 winners), Bench hair accessories kit (1,500 winners) and 15 ml Body Expertise White Perfect Triple Whitening Moisturizer (1,500 winners).
Promo period from May 30 to June 1, 2003. See leaflets for details.

Watch for the opening of Lee at Glorietta 2!

A rare treat for all Ayala Center Midnight Madness shoppers:

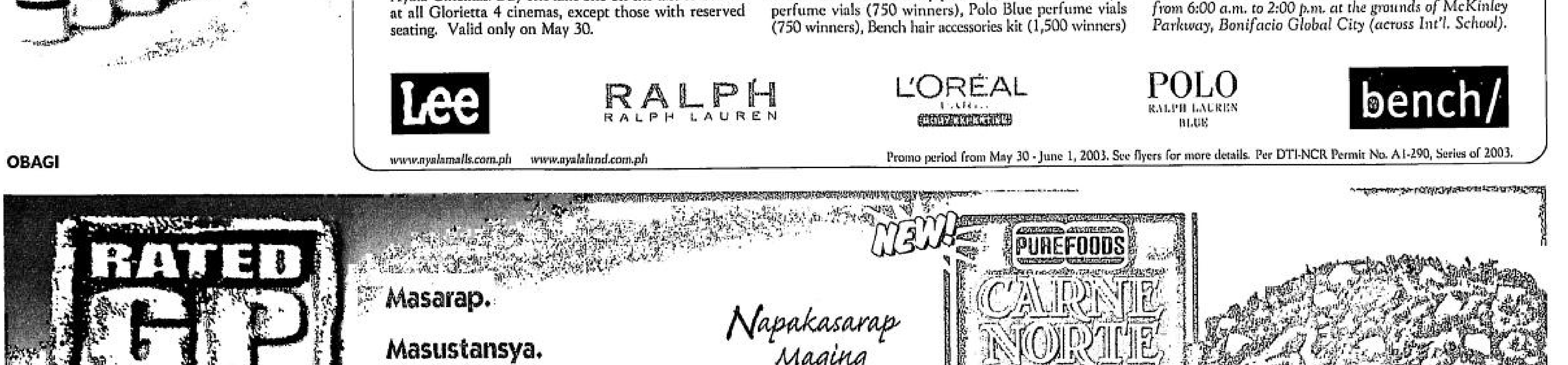
MARKET! MARKET!'s Weekend Market joins Ayala Center's Midnight Madness! Come visit the one-day Weekend Market at the Glorietta 3 Park (fronting Cabalen and CPK) on May 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the freshest selection of fruits, vegetables, plants and regional food products. The Weekend Market is open every Friday and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the grounds of McKinley Parkway, Bonifacio Global City (across Int'l. School).

MARKET! MARKET!

Lee RALPH RALPH LAUREN L'ORÉAL POLO RALPH LAUREN BLUE bench/

www.ayalamalls.com.ph www.ayalaland.com.ph

Promo period from May 30 - June 1, 2003. See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-290, Series of 2003.



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No-pain way to gain smoother skin

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HOW many among you, dear readers, suffer from cystic acne? That's the kind that leaves deep pits and scars on your face long after it has been cured.

All articles I have read talk about prevention and treatment, which is great if the problem is just starting but what if the damage has been done? Since I started this column, I have received letters asking if there are any products that can eliminate acne pits or at least make them less obvious.

The only thing I would recom-

NO-PAIN/ H3

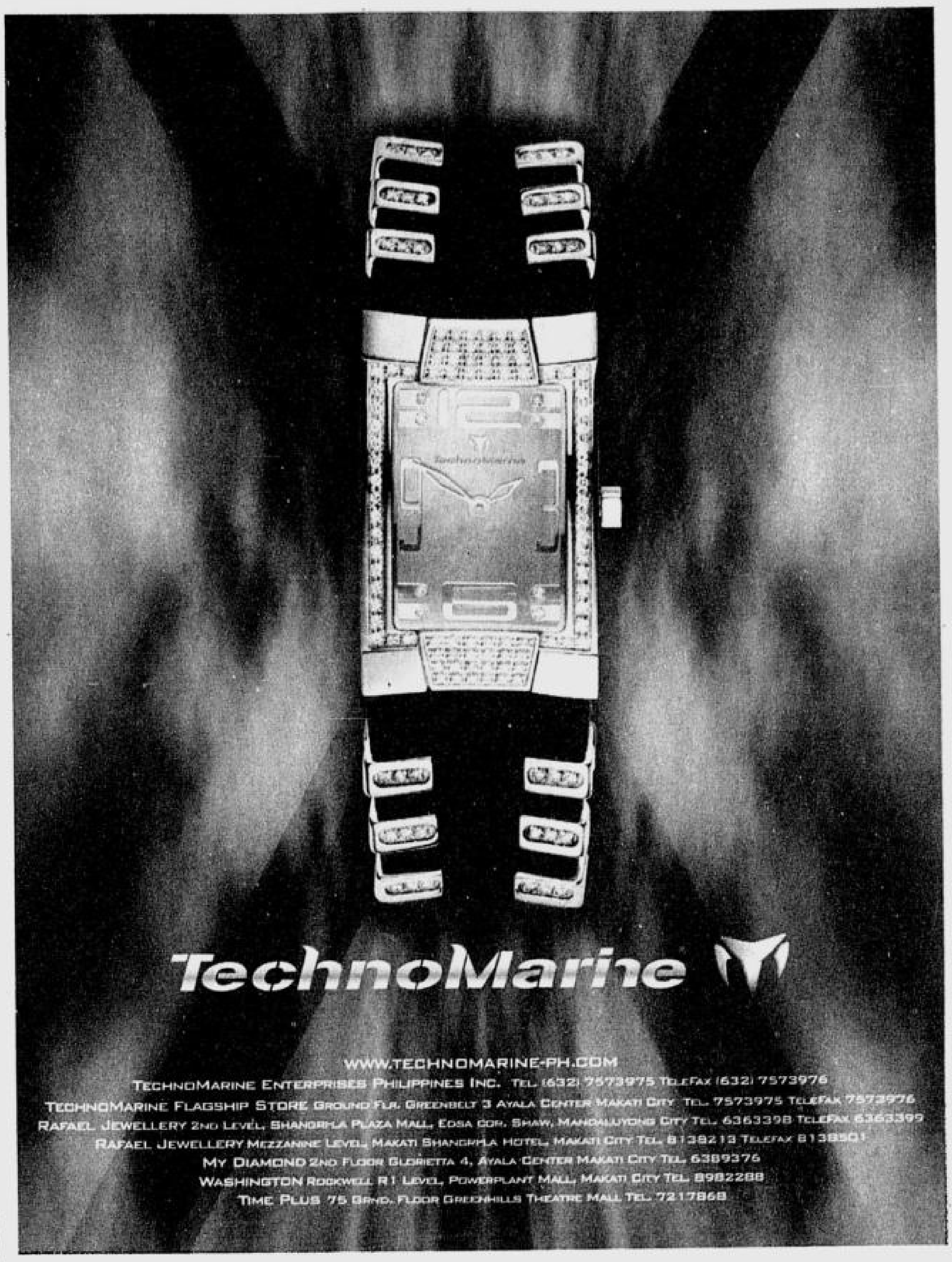
No more lonely nights

At the Summer Night Market of Greenhills Shopping Center

Can't wait another day for shopping pleasure? GSC invites you to the Crossroad Arcade Parking lot every Friday and Saturday from March 28 to May 31, at 6 pm 'til midnight. Know your fortune, paint your face, have a tattoo at the fun booths or go gaga over bubble and puppet shows and live band performances.

Shop and have fun day or night at GSC, your guiding light on summer nights.

www.greenhills.com.ph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• Circle C • SM Megamall • Target Mall • Greenbelt • Glorietta • Gotesco
• Harrison Plaza • Sta. Lucia • SM Manila • SM North EDSA
• SM Sta. Mesa • Robinsons Ermita
• SM Southmall • Festival Mall

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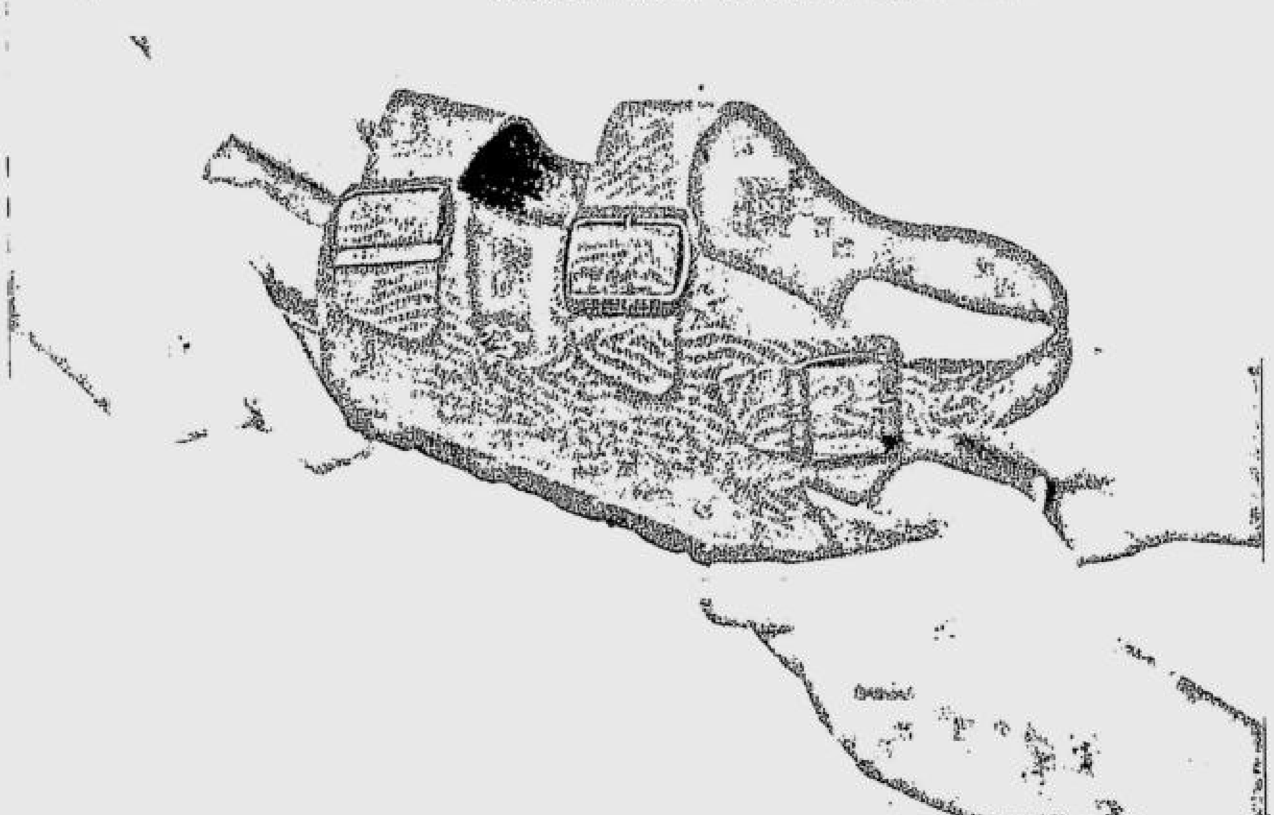

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